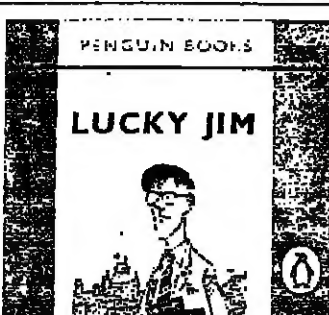


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TO BE
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Richard Morrison
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Cardinal had been given guarantees of innocence

Church condemns bishop's betrayal

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT, AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE scandal of the runaway bishop, Roderick Wright, deepened last night as church leaders condemned his betrayal and demanded that he come forward and confess.

Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of Scotland's Roman Catholics, said that he felt doubly abandoned by the disclosure that Mr Wright — who is thought to be in hiding with a divorced mother of three — had a 15-year-old son by another woman.

He is particularly enraged because he confronted Mr Wright about rumours of an affair three years ago and was given "cast-iron guarantees" of his innocence.

Cardinal Winning said: "I weep for the mother and child and the way they have been treated, but I have been so duped by events of the last few days that I don't know what to believe any more. I feel as betrayed as anybody in all this and I know what people are feeling because I am feeling exactly the same."

Mr Wright resigned as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles last weekend, having been missing for almost a week. He is believed to be with Kathleen Macphie, but yesterday Joanne Whitley, the mother of his son Kevin, said that she had been expecting him to set up home with her in Sussex.

Miss Whitley, who had refused to believe that he was with Mrs Macphie, said: "I still love him."

The Church, however, is "intensely angered and ashamed" by the behaviour of the man who is now referred to coldly as "Mr Wright". Its spokesman, Father Tom

Hotline plea

The mother of Rodney Wright's 15-year-old son yesterday called on the Roman Catholic Church to establish a hotline to help families in her position. Joanne Whitley was sure the Church would "want to take care".

Connelly, said that the former bishop was behaving like "the second Lord Lucan", adding: "We have been duped by a tissue of lies."

Rome also broke its silence on the affair yesterday, describing the disclosure about Mr Wright's son as a terrible blow to the Church. The Vatican had previously confined itself to a one-sentence statement announcing that the Pope had accepted the bishop's resignation. But yesterday Archbishop John Foley, head of the Vatican's public communications office, said:

"An individual at the highest level of responsibility has totally betrayed his trust."

The Most Rev Keith O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, feared that yet more scandal might emerge. "When one opens a can of worms, one just doesn't realise what's at the bottom of it," he said. "This Roddy Wright has had a weakness with regard to sexuality and there's always the possibility of other revelations."

Cardinal Winning meanwhile demanded that the former bishop come forward and explain why he accepted his position, knowing what lay in his past. He said he could not understand how Mr Wright had survived the "very, very strict" scrutiny process undertaken at the time of his appointment.

The cardinal also described how he had confronted Mr Wright over allegations that he was involved with a woman three years ago. "We went to see him and had a long discussion about it. We put it to him what had been told to us of his involvement. We received a categorical denial and a guarantee not only was it untrue, but it was scurrilous."

Faced with that denial, there was little the Church could do, the cardinal said. But he

added: "You don't forget these things, all the same. You live in fear of a nightmare, perhaps, but that seemed to recede because we had these guarantees. Unfortunately, the nightmare is on us now."

While the Vatican conceded that the Wright disclosures were a serious blow, Archbishop Foley said yesterday that it did not affect the integrity of the priesthood and insisted that the rule demanding priestly celibacy was not open to question.

Priests' training gave them adequate time to think of the consequences of the lifetime commitment they were making, he said. "Most candidates prepare for five to ten years, which is a lot longer than most people who get engaged or married." He did, however, accept that the Catholic clergy were under tremendous stress on a variety of social and sexual matters and thought that more could be done to prepare priests for maintaining a celibate life.

Dr Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman who is in France with the Pope, also said that the Pope's views on celibacy were firm and unchanging. It was not a personal doctrine of the Pope, but a doctrine of the whole Church, so only the whole Church could change it.



Adrianna Alsworth with her daughters Catherine, three, and Francesca, eight months. She says their father is Dermot O'Gorman, a Catholic priest. Page 3

Luvvie is a term of abuse, say the stage folk

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading directors, Trevor Nunn, has declared war on the word "luvvie". It is, he said, "as appalling and abhorrent as any racist word".

"It's a word that's had a deadly impact," he told *Vogue*. "I think it's a word as disgusting as the word 'yid' or 'nigger'. It categorises everyone of a particular grouping as the same, and not only categorises them, but patronises them and puts them down. It's a word that says you are hysterical, trivial, under-educated, self-indulgent, absolutely regardless of your background, education, lifestyle or manner."

Sir Peter Hall, the artistic director of The Old Vic, agreed. "It's a word invented by philistines who don't know how hard-working, professional and supportive of each other actors have to be."

The word was coined in 1991 by Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, who was inspired by his friend John Sessions's use of it. *Stars of Private Eye's* "Luvvies" column have included Kate Winslet, who played Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* and who gushingly described how she first met Emma Thompson: "She opened the door and said, 'Hi, you must be Kate. I'm Emma. I've just got to go for a wee. I'll see you in a minute' and I thought, 'I love her'."

Mr Hislop said: "How can they equate the use of luvvies with racist abuse? What an utterly fatuous remark. Trevor Nunn and others are obviously desperate to prove that luvvies are as ridiculous as we think they are."

"Luvvies at their worst seem to imagine that their lives are more scary and more complex than ordinary life can ever hope to be. It's the vocabulary that they use about danger which rather overvalues what they do and undervalues what most people do — people such as social workers, psychiatric-helpers or UN peacekeepers, who could be described as having dangerous jobs."

The actor Nigel Hawthorne said the word was "used by people who aren't in-the-know. Actors loathe it. It's the same as queer or gay applied to homosexuals. People don't like to be categorised."

Lord Attenborough said: "I agree with Trevor." But he added: "I have never called anyone 'luvvie'. 'Darling' maybe."

Woman, 73, found dead after rape

A WOMAN aged 73 who was raped while out for a stroll yesterday was found dead soon after she left hospital.

Lincolnshire police said that the woman's body was found by her daughter at her home in Tetney, near Grimsby, after she had been released from hospital.

Her attacker was the target of a manhunt last night: she had been able to describe him after the rape. The police said the incident was not being treated as murder at this stage because the cause of death had yet to be established.

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Bulgaria 'tried to kill its UN envoy'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BULGARIA'S Ambassador to the United Nations has publicly denounced his country's Socialist-led Government and suggested that it might have tried to kill him.

Slavi Pashovsky, an anti-Communist appointed by President Zhelev, said pro-Communist ministers elected in January 1995 were trying to sideline him in violation of the country's constitution.

The Ambassador's outburst was triggered by the Government's decision not to include him on its list of official delegates for the current session of the UN General Assembly. But he complained about a possible assassination attempt and drew a parallel with the 1978 murder of the Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov, killed by a poison-tipped umbrella on London's Waterloo Bridge.

"Let us... put an end to the infamy of the 'Bulgarian umbrella' once and for all," Mr Pashovsky wrote in an open letter to Zhan Videnov, the Prime Minister. Georgi

Pirinsky, Foreign Minister, and another minister.

At a press conference, Mr Pashovsky recounted how, when Bulgaria's anti-Communist President refused to bow to pressure to remove him from his post, somebody tampered with his car by cutting the connectors to his steering wheel.

"We have a long history of political violence," he said. "We have to stop this."

He complained that his Government had sent him a "cook" who, despite a sizeable salary that would support a whole village in Bulgaria, did not cook, calling the arrangement "very strange".

He also reported a suspected assassination attempt against another anti-Communist who was serving as Bulgaria's Ambassador in Albania.

The Foreign Ministry in Sofia, which is controlled by the Socialist-led Government, said Mr Pashovsky's allegations were "worthy of pity" and called on him to resign.

Horse kicks Carson in the stomach

WILLIE CARSON was seriously injured when a filly kicked him in the stomach at Newbury. The jockey, who suffered deep lacerations to the liver, spent last night in intensive care at North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke.

The incident happened in the paddock as the jockey prepared to mount an unraced horse, which whipped round and lashed out at him. Carson, 53, fell and lay motionless as paramedics reached him. Page 45



Carson: liver lacerated

Police to clamp down on links with Freemasons

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ALL police officers will be asked to declare whether they are Freemasons under tough new plans being prepared by chief constables to curb the organisation's links with forces.

Any officer who reveals he is a Freemason or a member of any other semi-secret organisation would have the details entered on a force register of interests. The declarations will be voluntary but if an officer stays silent and later faces allegations involving Freemasonry, his silence would count against him.

Chief constables are also planning to issue strongly worded guidance to all officers on their membership of or their intention to join a masonic lodge. The guidance will make it clear that officers must avoid membership of any group which might lead to questions over their impartiality.

Officials from the association have also held talks with the Freemason's Grand Lodge

and been given an assurance that they would be given help in discovering if an officer under investigation was a mason.

The guidance and the instructions on the register of interests will be carefully phrased and will not only cover the Freemasons but include other secretive societies.

The plans will go before a national council of all 43 chief constables in England and Wales next month and will then be put to staff associations. Sources at the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) believe the junior ranks, led by the Police Federation, will accept the policy. However, three years ago the federation's annual conference rejected a motion calling for officers to declare their membership.

Many senior officers believe that the influence of the Freemasons is declining. Only a handful of chief constables are said to be members and no

senior official within Acpo is a member nor any officer at the top level of Scotland Yard. But there are still strong links among lower ranks.

A separate lodge was formed by Scotland Yard officers in the 1980s when Sir Kenneth Newman, the then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was urging his force to be careful about joining the Freemasons.

One chief constable said yesterday: "It is important that the fact an officer is a mason should be seen before any allegations are made. Our point is if you are a member of an organisation which is above board, nothing is lost by declaring it."

Last night Michael Hyams, grand secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, said he did not think Freemasons should be singled out. They are not, he said, a secret society. He said membership was part of private life and even police officers were entitled to a private life.



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Labour to scrap child benefit from 16

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership last night braced itself for a backlash from party activists after it pressed ahead with plans to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, announced that the weekly benefit would be replaced under a Labour government by a means-tested education allowance paid only to low and middle-income families. High-earning families would be prevented from claiming, but Labour will not announce the earnings threshold until after the November Budget.

The new allowance, to be paid to parents of those between 16 and 18 on

school or college courses, would be topped up by an extra payment for families in greatest need.

Although Mr Brown said that the "millionaire family of an Etonian sixth-former" would receive no allowance he would not say how many others would lose existing benefits. He would not confirm reports that those entitled to the extra payment could receive more than double the £10.80 currently paid for the first child. Precise figures could not be assessed until after the November Budget, but Mr Brown promised full details before the party published its general election manifesto.

"I cannot justify a situation where, if I represent the hard-working taxpayers of this country, the son or daughter of a millionaire who sends

his or her child to Eton or to another private school can claim child benefit when half the mothers of teenagers do not receive it."

Opponents of the scheme said yesterday that if the earnings threshold was set too high, it would not provide enough new money to redistribute among the poorest families. Labour leaders recognise, however, that setting too low a threshold could alienate many middle-income families fearing they will lose their benefit.

The changes, which have prompted divisions among shadow Cabinet members, has attracted dozens of critical motions for debate at the party's annual conference at the end of the month. Activists are alarmed that the decision to scrap post-16

child benefit may herald further changes to payments for younger children.

Lynne Jones, left-wing Labour MP for Birmingham, Sellyoak, said: "There will be a fairly vigorous debate and I would not like to predict the outcome." The moves also came under attack from welfare campaign groups, who said the redistribution would create confusion and greater bureaucracy.

Mr Brown said that the £600 million saved on child benefit, together with £400 million saved from the abolition of Youth Training schemes, would "revolutionise post-16 education". The Shadow Chancellor has fought off opposition, particularly from Chris Smith, the former social security spokesman. Colleagues

said the changes would be decided by Tories as a "tax on teenagers".

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, seized on the moves as proof that Labour was still a tax and spend party. "New Labour's plans to end child benefit for children staying in school would mean a new teenage tax, a new means-test and a penalty on further education," he said in a statement. "If Labour refuses to recognise the cost to families of children in school after 16, they have no logical reason to recognise the cost to families of children in school under 16."

Child benefit, at £10.80 for the first child and £8.80 for other children, is paid to mothers of all children under 16 but only to mothers of 16 to 18-year-olds in education.

Brussels rules out end to ban on UK beef

By ANDREW PIERCE AND CHARLES BREMNER

THE European Union's ban on the export of British beef will not be lifted for the foreseeable future, Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, said yesterday.

"As long as they do not meet the pre-conditions, then an end to the export ban is simply not a possibility," said Herr Fischler. His statement reflected the scorn and indifference in Europe that has greeted the British decision to opt for a lesser cattle cull than that agreed at the Florence summit in June after it was suggested that "mad cow disease" could be linked to the human brain disease CJD.

The Brussels Commission gave warning that British hopes of winning an early exemption from the ban for certain herds in Northern Ireland and elsewhere would come to nothing until the original selective slaughter was started.

John Major appealed in vain yesterday for an end to the "hysteria" in Europe surrounding BSE, and a return to rational debate over the lifting of the export ban. Douglas

Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, admitted that the prospect of a Tory revolt had been a decisive factor in the decision to suspend the cull.

Germany, the EU state which has taken the toughest line against Britain throughout the BSE crisis, led a wave of condemnation for what officials depicted as the Cabinet's "incomprehensible" decision to renege on the undertaking, made last June in Florence, to start a selective slaughter. "A unilateral change by the British government is not acceptable," said Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister. "The main priority is the health of the consumer. The ban on importing British cattle, beef and other products will remain in force," he said.

The German farmers' association said it was "outraged" by the British decision. "We call on the government and all other member states to exclude Britain from the European beef market until it fulfils its commitments to the European Union," Philippe Vasseur, the



John Major visiting a school club in Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire, yesterday

French Farm Minister, took a similar tone, saying: "The unilateral decision can only be met with perplexity by other European countries."

Ireland, which, as current EU president, speaks for the Council of Farm Ministers, noted that British behaviour would have no impact on Europe since the beef ban would simply stay in place.

The British move was "a matter of indifference" to many member states, he said. "The biggest losers will be British — and in particular Northern Irish — farmers. The move will considerably

widen the gulf of understanding about tackling the BSE problem." Mr Yates, who has been acting as a mediator between Britain and the Continent in the beef battle, has been telling Mr Hogg that many EU states would be only too happy for an excuse to let the ban continue indefinitely.

The Commission tried to keep doors open, noting that EU scientists were still reviewing the latest British data, produced by experts at Oxford University, and could recommend a rise or reduction in the slaughter, which was due to target 147,000 cattle. Sir Leon

Brittan, the senior British commissioner, persuaded his colleagues on the Commission to have the latest science reviewed by the experts before dismissing Mr Major's latest approach to BSE.

The Commission remained open to discussing the possibility of easing the ban for animals from certified herds, possibly on a regional basis, "but only if the terms of the Florence agreement are respected," said Gerry Kieley, spokesman for Herr Fischler. This approach carried the potential for conflict between Northern Ireland and Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom. The Government indicated earlier this week that it was reversing its earlier refusal to seek a relaxation on a regional basis and could apply to the Commission for specified BSE-herds there to be exempted.

The latest conflict over Britain's handling of its BSE crisis has further soured the atmosphere ahead of an EU summit in Dublin on October 5. Some French commentators yesterday suggested Mr Major was deliberately seeking a new beef confrontation with Europe to distract attention from his likely isolation at the Dublin summit on the issue of European reform. The summit just before the Tory party conference.

Suicide farmer hit by BSE losses

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FARMER whose cattle business was hit by the BSE alert killed himself on his way home from market, Brian Elgar, 56, bought 20 cattle a week from markets across the South of England for later resale.

As a result of the BSE crisis he had seen the price they would fetch drop from up to £700 each to less than £400, an inquest at Guildford, Surrey, was told yesterday. He was found, with a plastic bag over his head, in his car at Hydon Ball National Trust car park at Hascombe, near Godalming, Surrey, on August 7. Mr Elgar was last seen alive the previous afternoon leaving Ashford Cattle Market.

Mr Elgar's brother, Ronald, 55, told Michael Burgess, the Surrey Coroner, that they ran Barville Farm at Waldershare, near Dover, as a partnership. His brother was in charge of the cattle interests.

Ronald Elgar said that his brother was dedicated to attending cattle markets and regularly spent four or five days a week away from the farm doing business. He said: "It was a worry for us, we had lost a lot of money in the last few years. BSE was one problem but there was also the fact that he was addicted to buying cattle."

"He would buy irrespective of whether we could make any money or not. Since his death I have calculated our average loss on each cow over the last eight months and it has worked out at a £75 loss per head." He added: "My brother's sole interest in life was going to markets and buying and selling cattle."

In April another farmer, John Capp, 58, killed himself in Beckingham, Lincolnshire, after falling into a deep depression.

In May, Bill Rodney, 49, from Healey, Yorkshire, killed himself with a shotgun and last month Robert Cowburn, 40, from near St Austell, Cornwall, killed himself because he could not get a good price for his cattle.

THE TIMES ON MONDAY



THATCHER AND THE GERMANS

The inside account of how innate distrust became dangerous obsession

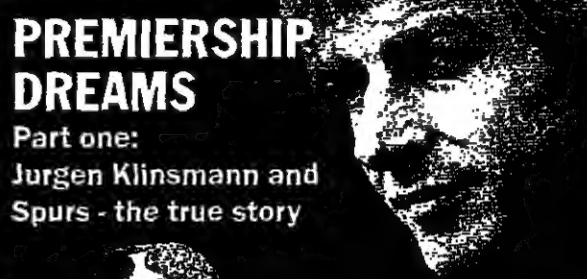
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17-PAGE SPORTS SECTION



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EVERY MONDAY: MATTHEW PARRIS, COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

Teacher training college criticised by inspectors

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE first college to be the subject of an inspectors' report since the Government launched its shake-up of teacher training came in for severe criticism yesterday, which could lead to the withdrawal of its accreditation.

Inspectors found courses in English and mathematics for primary school teachers to be unsatisfactory at La Sainte Union College in Southampton. Their report also criticised the standard of training in assessment and reporting, and found "serious weaknesses" in quality assurance.

The college threatened to sue The Sunday Times when the newspaper reported the findings of the first inspectors' visit almost a year ago. But the final verdict from the Office for Standards in Education

was equally damning. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the report demonstrated many of the shortcomings which led to the Government's decision to introduce a national curriculum for teacher training. "The serious weaknesses, particularly in English and mathematics, at this college are the sort which undermine confidence in the training of new teachers."

Inspectors said students were not prepared sufficiently well to teach national curriculum English. "Although most students planned for the short term and managed classes successfully, they did not have a clear understanding of how to teach reading or writing." In mathematics, students were said to lack adequate

knowledge for all age groups in primary schools.

Dr Armand Chitnis, the Principal, said the inspection only covered courses followed by 300 of the 2,000 students. All the weaknesses in the report had now been addressed. Dr Chitnis said surveys of head teachers showed high levels of satisfaction with the college's graduates.

The report will trigger a second inspection next year. The college will join five others where the Teacher Training Agency will withdraw accreditation unless standards improve. The others are: Charlotte Mason College, in Ambleside, Cumbria; South Bank University, in London; West Hill College, in Birmingham; and Sussex University.

Mayor loses fight for privileges

THE Unionist Mayor of Londonderry lost a High Court action yesterday to regain the trappings of office. Richard Dallas was stripped of his privileges after taking part in the loyalist blockade of the Craigavon Bridge in the city at the time of the Drumcree standoff in July.

The nationalist-controlled Derry City Council took away his right to represent the city at civic functions and also stripped him of his official car and secretary. Mr Justice Kerr dismissed his application for judicial review yesterday in the High Court in Belfast. He said the council was entitled to regulate the civic duties to be performed by the Mayor.

Mr Dallas said he had been acting in a personal capacity as a member of the Orange Order 1, and not as Mayor or councillor.

Prisoners to pay for board and lodgings

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS are to be made to pay towards their bed and breakfast under new plans intended to introduce more realistic wage schemes for inmates. The money will be deducted from convicts who are receiving increased wages for prison work.

Richard Tilt, director general of the prison service, said that scheme was intended to encourage prisoners to work harder and increase productivity. In

return for the higher wages, which could be £50 a week compared to the usual £7, they would contribute towards the £425 a week it costs to hold a prisoner in jail. Inmates would also pay towards the upkeep of their families and pay cash to victim support and crime prevention schemes. The figure to be deducted for board and lodging has not been set yet, a Prison Service spokesman said.

A pilot scheme paying higher wages to 1,300 prisoners in 18 jails has been self-financing, Mr Tilt told a conference at Salford University yesterday. Among the

jails involved are Full Sutton, Wakefield and Wakefield top security prisons. Albany on the Isle of Wight, Little Hey near Huntingdon, Furlong open jail and Styal women's prison.

The scheme had proved that offering higher wages and more interesting work had encouraged prisoners to work harder. Mr Tilt said. Productivity had trebled in jails where the "enhanced wages" project was under way. "Hopefully, it will lead to a fundamental change in prisoners' work rate and their attitude to work in prison," he said.

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Father had spent hours on telephone preparing to set up home with his secret family

Mother of bishop's son still loves her 'decent man'

By LIN JENKINS

THE woman who kept a 15-year secret that a Roman Catholic bishop was the father of her son said yesterday that she still loved him. Joanne Whibley, 48, was in tears as she told how she had been expecting Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, to join her and their son Kevin at their home in Polegate, East Sussex.

Until his resignation was announced by the Roman Catholic Church on Monday she had believed Mr Wright was abandoning the church for a family life with her at last. They had spent up to 45 minutes a day on the telephone planning how he was to say his goodbyes, break his ties and join them.

"He is an honest, decent, genuine man and I still love him," she said. "But he compartmentalises things in his head. One day he would be loving, caring, and the next day deny his son."

Speaking through a friend, Miss Whibley said she and Mr Wright had spoken on the telephone daily until the weekend, even during the time that he was said to be "missing" in Scotland. "He was still ringing



Mrs Whibley speaking on television yesterday

up and spoke to me and Kevin. He told us he was going to put his affairs in order, going to resign and come down and live with us.

"He said to Kevin he was saying goodbye to everybody he needed to say goodbye to and would come down by today. Now Kevin has said he has had enough time and he is obviously not coming."

She said that the disgraced bishop never once mentioned a relationship with another woman. When press reports linked his name with Mrs MacPhee she thought it was "filth, a media lie", and possible a ploy by the press to

flush her out. As she listened to the church statement about the resignation she had expected to hear her own name. When she did not she spent the night awake thinking before deciding to contact the BBC.

Mr Wright has not rung her since resigning. "I have not heard from him and I do not expect to. I just don't think he is going to. He could, if he wanted to, stay in a monastery for the rest of his life."

Miss Whibley, who does part-time social work and claims benefit, told her son when he was three who his father was. She never told even her closest friends, but Kevin increasingly told his school friends, finding it hard to live with the secret and the feeling that he should not exist.

Miss Whibley feels that the Catholic church should devise some system to help the lovers and children of priests. Before the scandal broke she had discussed with Mr Wright the possibility of setting up a centre for children to meet estranged parents on mutual ground. Now she sees the need for a helpline dedicated to those in a similar position to herself. "The Catholic church



Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles: planned goodbyes

should be pro-active and set up its own telephone line for women who have children by priests to telephone them and tell them their details and the church, I am sure, will want to take care."

She added that behind the clinical debate about celibacy prompted by the bishop's resignation were the more profound and prosaic matters of people's lives. "To me it seems like it is all a bit academic as this is about human pain and suffering. That is what should be talked about," she said.

Miss Whibley has declined offers from newspapers to sell her story. Her letterbox is

boarded up with cardboard and the doorbell goes unanswered. Her son is staying with friends but yesterday attended St Richard's Roman Catholic School Bexhill, where he is a prefect, as normal.

Tony Campbell, the headmaster, said: "The school and community are saddened by the news which was revealed yesterday with regard to the family circumstances of Kevin Whibley. Kevin is a popular, intelligent and most kind young man who contributes fully to the life of the school. During these distressing times Kevin and his mother can be assured, and have been as-

sured, they will have the continued support of the school."

The Catholic Church yesterday offered support and guidance to Miss Whibley. Father Martin Thompson of Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne, said he had come to see her on the order of Bishop Cormack Murphy O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, to offer support. He said: "Any parishioner who was in trouble, it would be my desire to go and help them and talk to them and offer them any comfort or assistance I could."

Pope stands firm, page 14

History proves ideal of celibacy is unachievable

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND RICHARD OWEN

THE Roderick Wright affair is the latest in a series of sex scandals that have rocked the Roman Catholic church. In Switzerland, a popular newly-elected Bishop, Hansjörg Vogel, resigned in June after making his girlfriend pregnant.

Bishop Vogel explained in a letter to his diocese that he had sought support from a woman to cope with the "greater mental stress" of being made a bishop. "This relationship led to a pregnancy," he wrote, concluding that "the credible exercise of my ministry was no longer possible".

In his letter he addressed the issue of priestly celibacy, arguing that "fresh doubt will arise as to whether priests can really maintain their decision to be celibate".

Four years ago the Bishop of Galway, Eamon Casey, disappeared when news broke that he had a teenage son. But the disclosures caused a scandal from which the church in Ireland has yet to recover.

Earlier this year, a Scots-born Catholic priest confessed to fathering a child while working as a missionary in Africa. Fr John McCauley was sent to the Mill Hill Missionaries in Formby, Merseyside, for "counselling

and spiritual help". In 1992, Monika Kosarek disclosed that her daughter was fathered by the Rev Christopher O'Neill, a Catholic priest of Bolton.

Numerous Popes have fathered children. In the fifth century, when the celibacy rule was still taking shape, Felix III had two children. In the sixth century St Hormisdas was married before ordination and his son Silverius also became Pope.

Even in the Middle Ages, when the celibacy rule was formally imposed, Popes had wives and children. Clement IV (1265-68) was married with two daughters, and Innocent VIII (1484-1492) had several illegitimate children, as did Pius II (1458-1464).

The most sexually active Pontiff was the Borgia Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) who led what was described at the time as an "openly licentious life". He had four children by his aristocratic Roman mistress, Vannozza Catanei, as well as children by other women.

Subsequently Julius II had three daughters and Pius IV (1559-65) had three illegitimate children. Gregory XIII (1572-85) had "a natural son", whom he made Governor of the fortress of Castel Sant' Angelo next to the Vatican.

Widow tells of shame of affair with her priest

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MOTHER told last night how her relationship with a Roman Catholic priest resulted in two children. Adrianna Alsworth said that he would not leave the church for her and his family was "a source of shame".

Her two daughters, Catherine, 3, and Francesca, eight months, were born during a five-year affair she had with Fr Dermot O'Gorman, whom she met at St Augustine's church in Daventry, Northamptonshire. Mrs Alsworth became involved with Fr Dermot after her husband Stephen was killed in a car crash. She is still in regular contact with the priest.

"When I was expecting Catherine he was extremely concerned obviously because he wanted to continue in the ministry. He would have been

very sad if he couldn't continue," Mrs Alsworth said. Originally the couple decided to keep Catherine's identity a secret. "It was very secret, we felt that it was best that way. It is something I still find very difficult today."

As with Kevin Whibley, the father's name was not registered on the birth certificate. Ms Alsworth, still a practising Roman Catholic, said her lover left after Catherine's birth to work as a priest elsewhere.

"After the first year they [the parishioners] discovered he was the father of Catherine and it was very traumatic for him and for me that we had this little daughter," she said.

While her lover had enjoyed having a family, she said there had been no question of his leaving the ministry and marrying her. "He wanted to continue his ministry, he wanted to be a priest. I would be an embarrassment. It is appalling as I face up to the reality. Obviously I have to now, but it becomes harder and harder."

She said members of the parish clergy had been "very supportive" when they found out about her two daughters, but that other women may not have been so fortunate.

"I have heard of other cases and some of them are very tragic. Women have the burden of looking after the children."

Hotline urged for lovers of clergy

By A STAFF REPORTER

JOANNE WHIBLEY called yesterday for the Roman Catholic Church to set up a telephone line to help women who have had children by priests.

Speaking to BBC television news, she said she was sure that the Church "will want to take care". Miss Whibley originally approached the BBC to "unburden" herself after Roderick Wright apologised, when he resigned as a bishop, to his family and the family of Kathleen MacPhee, with whom he has been linked, but made no mention of her or their 15-year-old son, Kevin. She said that she had decided to make her story public in the hope that it might help other women.

When she had heard that Mr Wright had run off because of another woman she thought that the reports referred to her. She was shocked to discover that she was not the other woman, as Mr Wright had never mentioned anyone else to her.

He had telephoned Kevin and his mother two weeks ago, telling them that the pressure had become too much and that he was planning to resign and come and live with them.



Father O'Gorman: father of two

Burdened teenager may suffer for sins of father

KEVIN WHIBLEY, the son of Roderick Wright, is at a testing time in his life when he is going through the turmoil of adolescence without the support of his father. Research published last year confirmed the traditional teaching that children brought up in single-parent families are more likely to have problems which can, in some cases, lead to disaster in adult life.

Kevin Whibley has the additional burden of having a father who will now certainly have made him the subject of ribald and critical comment, remarks ranging from the tactless jokes to the deliberately offensive. Children like to be proud of their parents, but they like them to be low profile. Parents they find embarrassing enough even when they are perfectly standard.

Without a suitable role model it will be harder for Kevin to establish good future relationships as a lover, husband and father. Seldom discussed are the hazards of co-dependency which can develop when a single parent and child face the world together. Kevin has had to some extent to fulfil not



MEDICAL BRIEFING

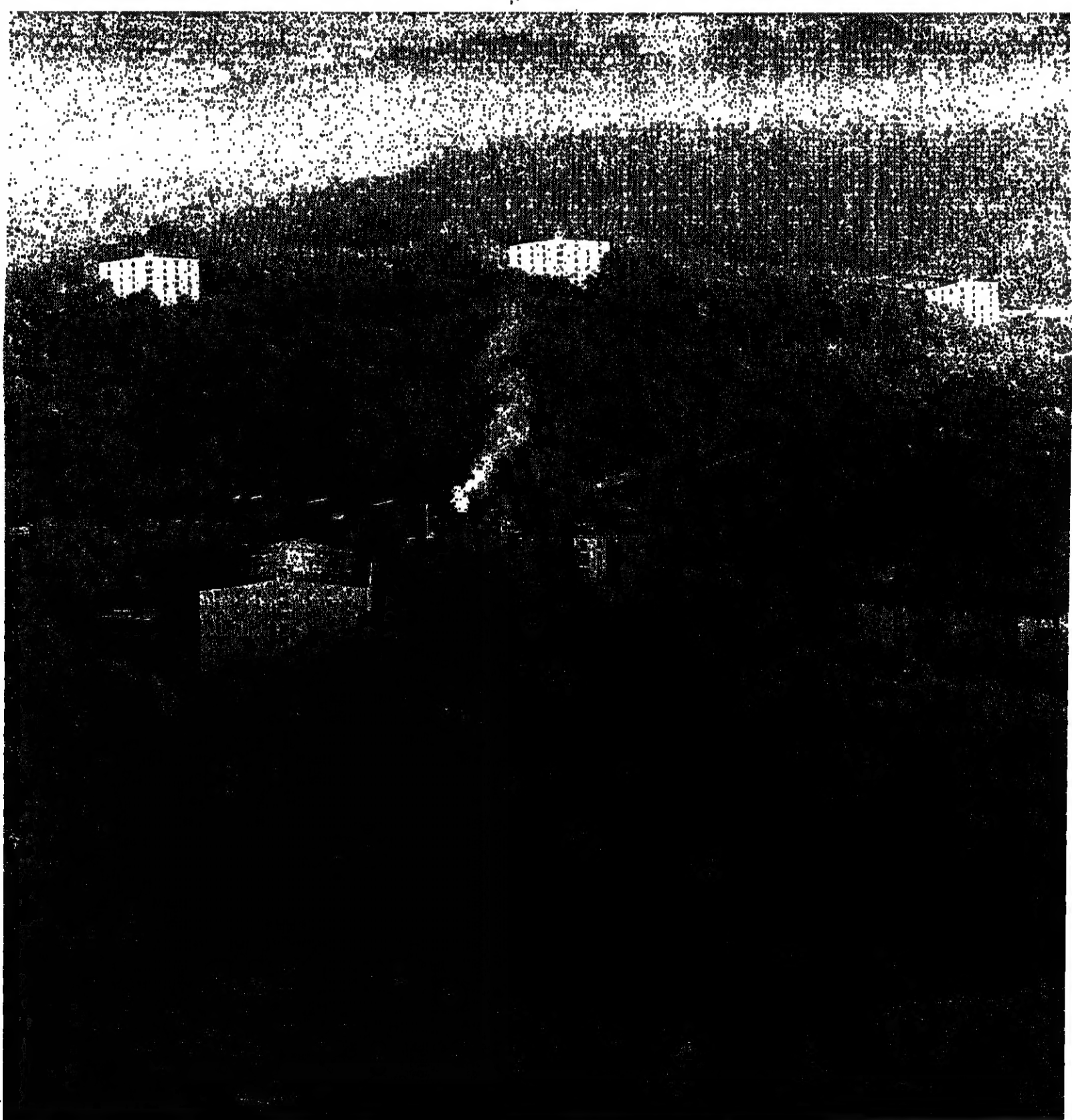
be represented as an absent hero whose unseen presence is always felt. Mr Wright's behaviour will make it difficult for his friends, neighbours and family to fit him into this sometimes mythical image. Kevin looks the sort of boy who may have a character, which will rise above these problems and he can be reassured that, statistically, he will indeed probably grow into a reasonably well-balanced citizen. But statistics also show that he will have a greater chance than others of developing anti-social characteristics.

Without a suitable role model it will be harder for Kevin to establish good future relationships as a lover, husband and father.

Seldom discussed are the hazards of co-dependency which can develop when a single parent and child face the world together. Kevin has had to some extent to fulfil not

only the role of the beloved son within the house, but also that of the absent husband. Many times I've heard a recently widowed parent say to a young child, "You are now the man (or woman) of the house." It is meant well but it deprives children of some of their youth so that in their childhood they have to behave in some ways like an adult; the pattern of normal development is skewed and sometimes altered beyond repair. When these children finally reach adult life they may have never completely matured and so may always be looking to repeat their childhood experiences, to the time when they were solely dependent on their single parent for their emotional support and their parent was entirely dependent on them.

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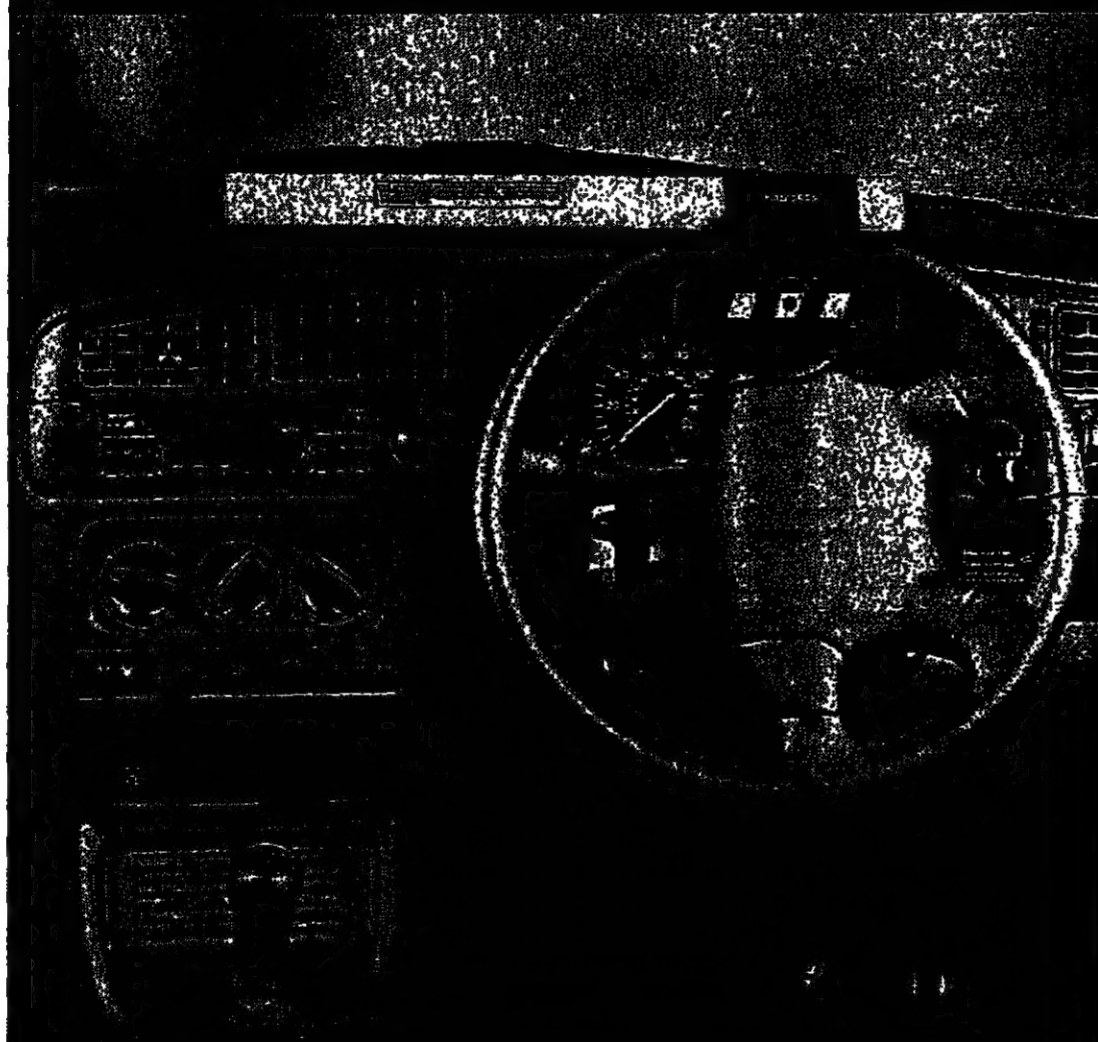
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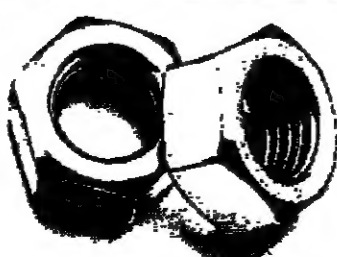
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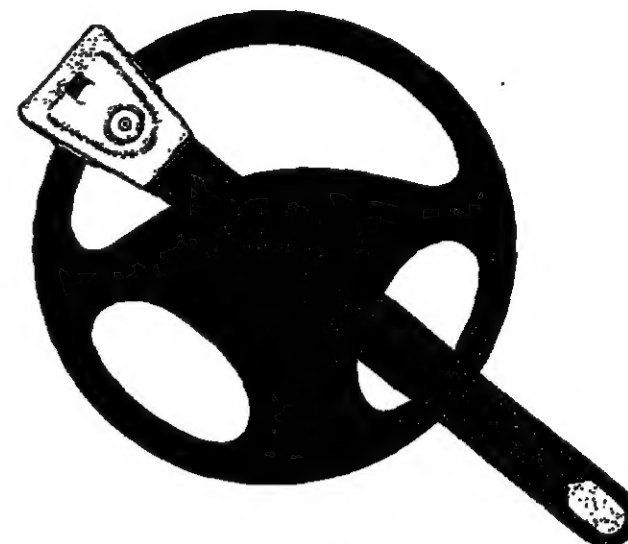


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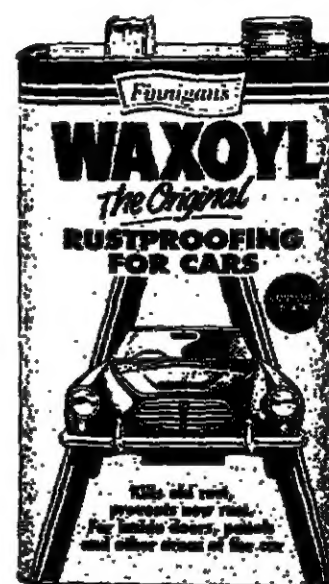
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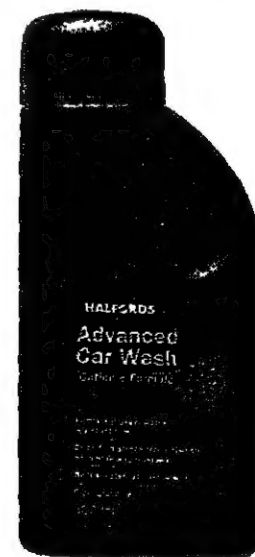
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BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Eileen Hariri, whose son Stefan, 5, is a pupil at the school, said: "One woman had an argument with Mrs West

Simon Hughes, the local Liberal Democrat MP, has started an inquiry to find out what lies behind the terror campaign. "The level of threats is clearly unacceptable

Southwark Council, which is responsible for the school until the end of the month, said it had not been told anything about the threats. "The first thing we knew was when we read about it in the local paper," Gordon Mott, the council's education and leisure director, said. "As far as we can discover there was only one occasion last March when there was a threat. This whole thing is a storm in a teacup. We cease to have any responsibility for the school in two weeks, but we will do all we can to help until then."

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By A Staff Reporter

Graham Shipley, counsel for BT, told Mrs Justice Arden that BT undoubtedly had copyright in its directories and database, and there was strong evidence that they had been copied.



Once, Jeremy Thorpe was the most popular politician in Britain and took the Liberals to the brink of power. But behind the glamour he was hiding a sordid secret. After years of silence, the whole story can now be told of his long, illicit love affair, his financial dealings and the Establishment's efforts to save him from his own flaws

News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

During the four days Mr Birkert was held, McConnell was said to have relished his suffering and reduced him to a "zombie-like state". The pair made Mr Birkert buy them expensive clothes, cigarettes and bottles of champagne, and ordered him to drive

He has now passed three A levels but not at the grades he had hoped, and is due to start a university course next week.

McConnell, of Chelsea, and Francis, of no fixed address, both had previous convictions for dishonesty.

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Acting head: Ben Kingsley, who won an Oscar for his role as Gandhi, with students at a new school of performing arts named after him at Pendleton College in his home town of Salford, Greater Manchester. He opened the school yesterday and led a workshop. Arts, pages 19, 21

Pilot describes horror as Tornados 'popped up' out of clouds

RAF jets almost struck airliner

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into how three RAF Tornado fighter bombers climbed at high speed across the nose of a commuter aircraft carrying 17 passengers and three crew.

The Gill Air Shorts 330 turbo-prop had flown about 14 miles from Newcastle on the 40-minute flight to Manchester and was cruising at 7,000ft at a speed of about 200mph. The cloud cover over the Durham moors was solid up to 5,000ft.

Also in the area were three Tornados from RAF Lossiemouth in northern Scotland, carrying out a low-level exercise. While the Gill Air pilot had his radio tuned to the civil frequency, the Tornados were talking on the military network. As the flying conditions at low level became intolerable, the leader of the Torna-

do group asked his controllers for permission to climb through the clouds into clear skies.

For the pilot of the Gill Air aircraft there was a moment of horror as the three jets "popped up" out of the clouds in front of him. He immediately filed a formal complaint.

Investigators from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the Ministry of Defence have impounded radar tapes and will be conducting detailed interviews to examine whether the military controller had spotted the Shorts 330 and believed that the manoeuvre was perfectly safe: whether the RAF pilots saw the civilian airliner on their own radars; or whether the jets had inadvertently climbed into danger.

The incident has highlighted the problem of integrating civil and military aircraft across Britain. The CAA is studying ways of making the two systems more compatible

and reducing the number of "aircraft proximity" reports involving civil and military aircraft.

Two fighter pilots escaped unhurt after their jets collided with "a glancing blow" in mid-air at a closing speed of about 900mph (Michael Evans writes). The pilot of a £17 million Royal Navy Sea Harrier and the Dutch pilot of an

F16 succeeded in landing safely after the collision, although both aircraft were damaged.

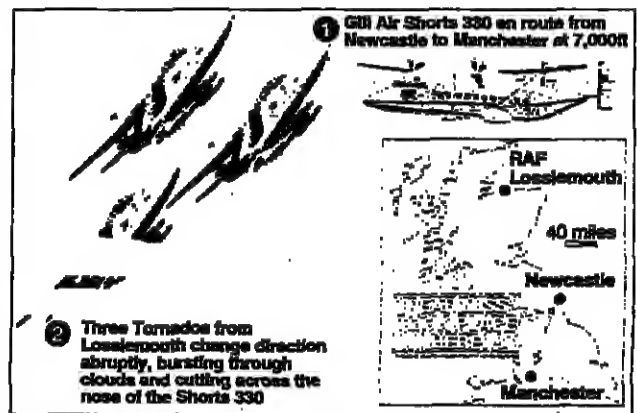
Yesterday Commander Richard Hawkins from the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton in Somerset, where the aircraft carried out an emergency landing, described the dramatic moment when the planes "brushed" in mid-air seven miles from Portland

Bill during a training exercise. Commander Hawkins said: "It could have been a disaster but it was very well handled. We got a mayday call from both aircraft. The Sea Harrier pilot said it felt like an explosion."

He said that other aircraft in the area were able to carry out a visual inspection in the air. The Sea Harrier's nose cone was damaged and the F16 had minor tail damage.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence said a board of inquiry had been set up to investigate the incident.

A pallet carrying 18 artillery shells crash-landed near a road on Salisbury Plain yesterday when a parachute failed to open. The 105mm shells were being dropped from a Hercules during an exercise codenamed Iron Cyclone. The shells did not go off but the road was closed while bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion.



Council seeks gay foster parents

By PAUL WILKINSON

A LABOUR council in south Yorkshire is advertising for gay and lesbian couples to be foster parents.

Rotherham, social services says in a newspaper recruitment advertisement that it would "particularly welcome" applications from them as they were under-represented as carers. It is also seeking single people, those with disabilities and those from the ethnic minorities.

The policy on homosexuals was immediately attacked by Angela Knight, the Conservative MP whose Erewash constituency borders Rotherham. "The people that should be targeted are happily married couples. They are the group likely to give children a stable and secure upbringing."

David Nuttall, a prominent Rotherham Conservative and former councillor, said: "It's a 'loony left' idea. The ordinary person in the street grows up with Mummy and Daddy, not Mummy and Mummy or Daddy and Daddy."

But Rotherham, where all but one of the 66 councillors are Labour, stood by its policy, which it said was based on standards set by the Government for all local authorities.

A spokesman said: "The current campaign is designed to attract families to foster caring from all sectors of the community... We would wish to stress that a great deal of care is taken in thoroughly assessing all applicants."

Pat Nolan, the head of Rotherham's social services, said: "We are not particularly targeting homosexuals. We are just saying that they won't be excluded if they apply... It depends on the child. It is the Government which gives us guidelines for anti-discriminatory policies."

One social worker, who asked not to be identified, said: "Quite often these kids are coming from horrendous conditions within a heterosexual relationship. Sometimes the last person they want to see is a man."

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Macclesfield shocked by death of man who guided club through most successful era

Football chairman smoked last cigar then shot himself

By KATE ALDERSON

THE ambitious chairman of a leading semi-professional football club has killed himself after guiding the team through its most successful era.

Arthur Jones, 50, a businessman who had invested massive amounts of cash and energy into improving Macclesfield Town Football Club's chances of attaining league status, was found lying next to a shotgun on Thursday morning. He is believed to have gone to his business offices in Macclesfield, Cheshire, where he smoked a last cigar before turning the gun on himself.

Mr Jones, who leaves a wife, Wendy, and a stepdaughter, Lynette, joined the club as a director in 1991 and became chairman three years ago. In May 1995 the team, nicknamed the Silkmen, became champions of the Vauxhall Conference, which qualified them to enter the Football League, but they were denied promotion because of problems with their ground, Moss Rose. There was some controversy as the ground had previously been used for League matches by Chester



City while its new stadium was being built. It was described in *The Non-League Football Grounds of Great Britain* as "up to Football League standard".

However, Mr Jones, the managing director of Crossland Metals (International), tasted success with the club this year when Macclesfield won the FA Umbro Trophy at Wembley.

The chairman's death has shocked and bewildered his colleagues. Alan Cash, a fellow director at the club, spoke to Mr Jones 24 hours before his death. "He seemed fine and nothing seemed to be troubling him," he said. "He was a perfect gentleman but he kept a lot to himself, which may have been a problem.

Everyone was bitter at the failure to get into the league, especially Arthur, because he invested so much into the club with that aim. Now we could achieve this great ambition and sadly Arthur won't be there. He was the heart and soul of the Town."

Nicholas Winteron, Conservative MP for Macclesfield and a friend of Mr Jones for many years, described the chairman's death as a tragedy for his family, friends and the club. "It is such a pity that whatever was worrying him he couldn't share it with his friends," he said.

"He was the dynamo behind the club and was so ambitious for it. We may learn eventually why he took this desperate step, but he loved the club, as does his wife Wendy, and we share the family's grief."

"If there were problems through his commitment to the club, I only wish that he could have shared them and been helped by his many friends. He had driven and carried the burden of the club himself and poured cash, time and energy into the place."

Colin Garlick, the club's secretary, said that Mr Jones



Arthur Jones at the Moss Rose ground of the team he helped to take to the brink of league membership

was widely respected in the football world. "The club has had three fantastic years since he was chairman and the team's manager (Sammy McIlroy, the former Manchester United player) is totally distressed."

Cheshire Police confirmed that a shotgun had been found at the scene and said that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding Mr Jones's death.

A statement released by the Vauxhall Conference said that Mr Jones "guided the Moss Rose club through its most successful era". It added that he oversaw the upgrading of the club's facilities and that the "Arthur Jones era earned Macclesfield Town the status as the most-honoured team", measured in national trophies, outside the Football League, since the 1992-93 season. A coroner will investigate the circumstances surrounding Mr Jones's death and supporters will pay a silent tribute to their chairman at the club's home game against Bath today.

Football, pages 46, 47

Jesus tomb authors threaten to sue BBC

By CAROL MIDGLEY

TWO authors who claim to have located the tomb of Jesus are threatening to sue the BBC for its "demolition job" on their theory.

Richard Andrews and Paul Schellenberger claim that they were unfairly treated in last week's *Timewatch* documentary which contradicted their "proof" that the grave is hidden beneath a mound of rock in the Languedoc, south-west France. The authors, who were paid a £300,000 advance for their book, *The Tomb of God*, said they were misled about the content of the programme and denied an opportunity to preview it as agreed.

The BBC2 programme, *The History of the Mystery*, shown on Tuesday, said that parchments used by the men to prove their theory were false. Mr Andrews, 43, a self-employed furniture restorer, of Witney, Oxfordshire, said he and his co-author had carried out exhaustive research for their book using archives in Paris and Oxford. "It was a thorough demolition job on us. The film did not treat us in a fair manner."

The programme was made for the BBC by an independent company, In Visions Production. A BBC spokeswoman, who denied breach of contract, said that the programme had been a demolition of the book and other myths on the same subject.

'Unknown' rock filed under P for problem

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

EXPERTS at the Natural History Museum baffled by a mysterious blue rock have discovered that the mineral is to be found throughout the Moroccan Rif Mountains — and in the basement of their own museum, in a drawer marked "P" for problems.

The rock was taken to the museum in Kensington by Anna Grayson, a broadcaster, who bought it from a roadside stall in Morocco. The resident geologists were stumped, but it has now been identified as aerinite by Dr Mohammed Bensaid, of the Moroccan Ministry of Mines. He said that the mineral was found in several places in the Rif Mountains. It is also found in the Natural History Museum, though none of the curators could lay hands on it when they needed to.

The embarrassing discovery was made when a researcher from BBC Television's *Horizon* was working with Ms Grayson on a programme about the mineral. It has left the museum almost as red-faced as the mineral is blue.

A spokeswoman said that the museum had 350,000 minerals in its collections, plus another 300 of questionable status. The four aerinite specimens came originally from Spain, France and Morocco, the first two before 1911. "Nobody working at the museum now had ever actually seen them," she said. "They weren't on the database, so when we searched it they weren't found."

Aerinite, which contains calcium, aluminium, iron, silicon, magnesium and oxygen, is certainly no common rock. The blue colour — the most intense of any mineral — is believed to be caused by the presence of two different forms of iron, between which electrons are constantly moving.

Woman in drug case remanded

A woman questioned by police over the death of Richard Mulkenrins, 17, a school head boy, was remanded in custody yesterday after being charged with supplying amphetamine sulphate. Jane Poyner, 39, of Stonehouse, Plymouth — who is also known as Preece — was alleged to have supplied the Class B drug to a youth in Plymouth between September 12 and 14.

Earl harassed

A South African photographer was given a suspended jail sentence by a Cape Town court for breaching an order not to harass Earl Spencer, brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, and his family.

Mine rejected

Powys County Council rejected an application by Celtic Energy to develop a huge opencast coal mine at Ystradgynlais, north of Swansea, on the fringe of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Greens to stand

The Green Party voted to field candidates in the general election, despite nearly 200 lost deposits last time. It defeated a call to focus on local and European elections. Up to 80 members may stand.

Man cleared

Lee Ellison, 21, of Witham, Essex, was cleared at the Old Bailey of taking part in an alleged £100,000 plot to blackmail Sainsbury's. It had been claimed that he was to act as a courier to collect the money.

Road works

Roy Smith, 49, a redundant sales director from Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, who stood beside the A466 with a poster saying "I need a job", has been hired as an international sales manager.

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New Zealand

TRAVEL BAG

See Weekend - Travel - Page 22

Canada geese face heavy cull with paraffin spray

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH blitz on the Canada goose is expected to be launched in public parks and gardens after the publication of research showing that numbers can be effectively controlled by spraying paraffin on to their eggs.

Studies carried out by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on behalf of the Department of the Environment show that the liquid paraffin suffocates goose embryos. The method is cheap and less controversial than shooting the geese.

A spokesman for the trust, based in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, said yesterday that the method was "usually 100 per cent effective". The findings, to be published in October, are to form new guidance from the department for councils and landowners.

The pressure for greater culling is expected to be increased by further research, also funded by the Environment Department and to be published next month, showing that the birds' droppings contain pathogens that could pose a public health risk.

Many wildfowl carry pathogens in droppings but, for most species, there is little chance of these coming into contact with human beings. However, this is not the case with Canada geese, which graze on playing fields and parkland. "It is the quantity of

droppings which these birds produce and their proximity to young children that is emerging as a key issue for controlling numbers," a spokesman for the department said.

The birds' prodigious defecation and tendency to go around in packs terrorising young children have earned them a reviled reputation. They were introduced into Britain by Charles II in the 17th century. Since then, rather like other imports such as the rabbit and the grey squirrel, they have taken to Britain and its climate.

Their numbers soared in the



The Canada goose has soared in numbers

1950s when shooters seized on the geese as a popular new game bird and began moving adults around the country. The present population is estimated at around 60,000. In some cities, parks and gardens have become overwhelmed by the geese.

But the difficulties and costs of controlling the birds, allied to doubts over the damage they cause to the environment, have made many landowners and local authorities reluctant to take culls seriously.

Chris Harbard, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a member of the Canada Goose Working Group, said yesterday that he would back the control of numbers using spraying. "We support such actions if there is a threat to public health or air safety," he said.

There have been suggestions that, as has been the case in America, Canada geese should be shot and sold to butchers as a delicacy. But the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust said: "At the moment it is illegal to sell them for the table. You would have to change the legislation for this to take place and there are problems."

"You might open the way for the sale of other kinds, like pink-footed geese. This might open the floodgates for illegal shooting."



Together at last: the couple plan to settle in Canada after marrying today



Stephen Keating and Edna Burke in their youth

Pair to wed after 54 years apart

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who were separated by the Second World War will finally marry today, after first meeting on a blind date in 1936.

Edna Burke and Stephen Keating grew up in Dalkey, Co. Dublin, and met when they were both 15. They fell in love and courted for two years before Mr Keating joined the RAF in 1938. She moved to Liverpool to work as a housekeeper after he was posted to Canada. They last saw each other in 1942.

Mr Keating, 75, said: "She says she kept writing, but I'm not so sure. I didn't realise letters were going astray and thought she'd found another love who wooed her with red roses instead of dandelions. My pride wouldn't let me contact her if she didn't want me."

Mrs Burke says that she kept writing, but eventually gave up after receiving no replies. She met and married Jim Burke and eventually moved to Coventry, where

they had four children. He died seven years ago.

After the war ended Mr Keating settled in Canada, working as a firefighter in Coburg, Ontario. He married and had four children.

It was only on a visit to her home town in Ireland in 1994 that Mrs Burke contacted Mr Keating's brother. He passed on his brother's telephone number and address and said that he was now a widower.

"I tried so many times to write, but just couldn't," she said. "Then after a month I finally picked up the phone." Mr Keating said: "This woman came on the line and asked me to guess who it was after 54 years. Strangely enough, I had a good idea. We just sort of came full circle. All the years just rolled back for both of us."

Mrs Burke flew out to visit him in May this year and they resumed their romance. After the wedding today in Coundon, Coventry, the couple will live in Coburg.

War widow reunited with husband's wedding ring

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of an American serviceman who was killed in an air crash over Belfast during the Second World War is to be reunited with her husband's wedding ring more than 50 years after his death.

Ruth Gillespie will receive the ring at a ceremony tomorrow from the man who found it nearly three years ago on a hillside outside Belfast where her husband's B17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed in 1944. Alfred Montgomery, from Glengormley, Belfast, flies out today to Mrs Gillespie's home town of Louisville, Kentucky, for the ceremony in her local Baptist church.

Mr Montgomery's search for the ring's origins began when he recovered it from the crash site on Cavehill mountain on a cold day in December 1993. At first he thought he had picked up a washer from the site of the crash, which he had searched regularly for

souvenirs since he was a child. But, after careful cleaning, Mr Montgomery soon realised what it was.

He told a local newspaper: "We got a magnifying glass and discovered an inscription with the names Ruth-Larry and a wedding date." Armed with this piece of information, Mr Montgomery secured the names of the ten airmen who died when the plane crashed towards the end of a flight from Newfoundland to Northern Ireland.

Two had the christian name Lawrence, but Mr Montgomery contacted the American cemetery in Cambridge, where officials eliminated one of the names and told him to contact Ruth Dundon, who had lost her husband, Staff Sergeant Lawrence Dundon, in the crash.

Numerous letters to veterans' groups, to pension administrators and to the

American Air Force all proved fruitless. Mr Montgomery even wrote to the airmen's last address in Louisville, but all to no avail. "At this stage I was running round in circles," he said.

In a last attempt to track down the airmen's widow, he wrote to a Louisville newspaper, the *Courier Journal*, which ran a story about the ring in July. Within weeks Mrs Gillespie, who remarried in 1946 and whose second husband died last year, telephoned him.

Mr Montgomery said: "She was surprised that the ring had turned up. When I explained that the crash site was close to civilisation she was really astonished. She was very grateful indeed that somebody should go to the trouble of researching and finding her. It was just gratitude from one end of the conversation to the other."

Bader 'may have been shot down by own side'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SIR DOUGLAS BADER, the Second World War flying ace who was captured after being shot down over France, may have been the victim of friendly fire, according to a new book about him.

Sir Douglas, who died in 1982, was shot down in his Spitfire over St Omer in August 1941. It has always been assumed that his plane was hit either by German anti-aircraft fire or by the Luftwaffe in a dogfight. Sir Douglas once suggested that he may have collided with a Messerschmitt 109.

Now, in a book about the Battle of Britain pilot, Dilip Sarkar claims that one of his own men may have shot him down by mistake. Mr Sarkar said that the collision theory was inconclusive and there was no proof that he was shot down by a German.

"In the confusing mass of duelling fighters it's not impossible that Bader was shot down by another Spitfire," he said. "He would have represented a flash across the windscreen at 350mph. Things weren't helped by the fact that the Messerschmitt 109F was new and didn't look that different to a Spitfire."

Lady Bader, Sir Douglas's widow, who lives near Newbury, said: "He assumed it was the enemy, but he never really talked about it. He didn't like remembering being shot down."

□ Bader's *Tangmere Spitfires: The Untold Story, 1941* (Haynes, £17.99) is published next month.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Vicar calls for Pope to lead Church of England

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AN ANGLICAN vicar who is about to be consecrated a bishop called yesterday for the Pope to be given primacy over the Archbishop of Canterbury and the monarch.

The Rev John Broadhurst, an opponent of women priests who heads the traditionalist group Forward in Faith, called on the Church of England to abandon its autonomy and to seek to rejoin the Roman Catholic Church, acknowledging the Pope as its "first bishop".

He also challenged the establishment of the Church of England and criticised the constitutional role of the monarch as supreme governor. "The Church has to return to the mainstream or it will perish," he said. "The only possible future for the Church of England is a Catholic one, with the Pope as the first bishop."

Father Broadhurst has growing influence in a Church where large numbers remain disillusioned over what they see as a steady progress towards liberalism. On Wednesday he will be consecrated Bishop of Fulham. His promotion, by the Right Rev Richard Chartres, the new Bishop of London, who has never ordained a woman, has been seen by many as a strong

endorsement from the hierarchy for Father Broadhurst's views. The Church's main proponent of disestablishment, the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, a vicar in the Rochester diocese, has also been promoted to an area bishop in Southwark.

Many traditionalists left the Church over the issue of women's ordination, but some, such as Father Broadhurst, remained in the hope that they could influence a return to what they regard as orthodox Christianity. He and other clergy, including the Ven George Austin, Archbishop of York, voice their fears for the future of the Church in a collection of essays, *Quo Vaditis*, published yesterday (Gracwing, £9.99).

Father Broadhurst describes establishment as "a Babylonian captivity of enormous proportions". He says the Anglican Church this century has suffered a significant decline, with falling numbers, increased secularisation and liberal theology.

"The establishment of the Church, which once held it close to the old universal tradition, has now become an instrument of oppression seeking to enforce the views of an increasingly secular world upon the believers," he says. "The Church defends every view except traditional Christianity." He calls for all "orthodox" Christians in the Church to "exert sustained pressure for a return to traditional faith and order".

Referring to the Pope, he calls for the issue of primacy to be recognised. Many Anglicans already believe the Pope to be the "first bishop of Christendom", he says. And some other Christians, while rejecting the concept of bishops, "recognise that the Pope consistently speaks for Christian values in an increasingly secular world".



Father Broadhurst to be consecrated a bishop

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15



Jack Shabosnick in the Great Garden Street synagogue where his father's collection of books is rotting away

Synagogue sale threatens East End rabbi's historic book collection

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A UNIQUE collection of books by a rabbi who prescribed herbal remedies for George V and exchanged letters with the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Sigmund Freud is rotting in the attic of a synagogue about to be sold to make way for a block of offices.

The Great Garden Street synagogue, just off Whitechapel, once boasted the largest congregation in the East End of London. When it opened 100 years ago, more than 1,000 people regularly attended services on the Sabbath and its rabbi was regarded as one of the leaders of British Jewry.

However, fewer than 50 are likely to be in the congregation for the Yom Kippur service on Monday, even though this is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Most of the Whitechapel Jewish community has migrated to the northern and eastern fringes of London, leaving

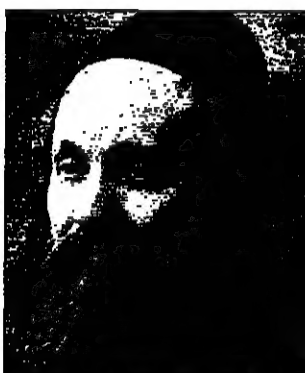


Louis Shabosnick, left, and Joseph Shabosnick

only a small group of mostly elderly people.

Jack Shabosnick, 64, whose father, Louis, was rabbi at the synagogue for 43 years, is trying to find a home for its handwritten goatein Torah scrolls, embroidered curtains and collection of religious books written and published by his grandfather, Joseph.

"My grandfather was a doctor, rabbi, herbalist and psychologist who never stopped writing," Mr Shabosnick said. "He was known as



the 'wonder rabbi' because of the way he treated and cured people."

In the family scrapbook is a letter from Lord Dawson of Penn, physician to George V, thanking the rabbi for a herbal remedy sent to the King in 1932. Other letters from the private secretaries of the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury attest to an attempt by the rabbi to form a parliament of all world religions to work for peace. "He was a loner who was full of

ideas and was never afraid of confronting the authorities if he believed in something," Mr Shabosnick said. "He never stopped working, which is probably why he died when he was only 56."

A London evening paper described a day with the rabbi. "When he walks the densely packed streets of the East End, the jostling crowds cleared a path for him as if by magic." When he died the streets were packed with mourners.

Hundreds of copies of the 45 commentaries he wrote on the Talmud — Jewish civil and religious law — are now gathering dust in the synagogue attic. Sharmar Kadish, a professor of Jewish history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, had inspected the collection recently and was shocked at its condition. "If they cannot be placed somewhere, then they will have to be buried, according to Jewish custom," Mr Shabosnick said. Most of the treasures will go to other Jewish centres.

Crede

Relics remind us of the power of God's love

The desire to possess tangible links with those who are powerful and charismatic is deeply embedded in human nature. The sale in America a few months ago of mementoes of the late Jacqueline Onassis was but one of the most recent examples.

Religion shares in this very human desire. Relics, whether the bones of saints, their rosaries, prayer books or clothing, are powerful symbols linking the contemporary worshipper with one

whose life was marked by a holiness and transparency to God. When a monk of Winchester became the first Bishop of Stavanger in Norway, he took with him an arm of the saintly Bishop Swithun to give him encouragement and protection — and, as a consequence, a cult of Swithun flourished in Norway. Possession of the relics of a saint could provoke both theft and war, as well as the wholesale manufacture of spurious relics, such as the great collection housed in Wittenberg by the Elector of Saxony on the eve of the Reformation.

Relics implied spiritual power, and it is no surprise that the attack on papal power in the 16th century coincided with a destruction of relics and shrines of saints. It may have been an understandable attack on what was perceived as a superstitious prop to ecclesiastical power, but it was blind in failing to see the link between relics in the widest sense and the essential incarnational, embodied, character of the Christian faith, whose treasure is always in earthen vessels.

Of Christian relics none was more powerful than those held to be of the Cross of Christ. So, in 618, when the Persian King Chosroes II seized the relic of the True Cross from Jerusalem and carried it off to Mesopotamia, a shudder ran through Eastern Christendom. The spiritual devastation was reversed a little over ten years later, when the Emperor Heraclius led an army against the forces of Chosroes and returned the relic of the Cross in triumph to Jerusalem — the first and last time that an Eastern Roman Christian Emperor set foot in the holy places.

A week ago Christians celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, or Holy Cross Day, a feast which began in commemoration of Heraclius's triumphant restoration of the cross to Jerusalem, yet there can be few who celebrate it who know of its origin. For, rightly, what this day has come to commemorate is not the rescue of a relic, nor the darkness, grief and sorrow of Good Friday, but the Cross as the sign of the victory of the love of God, the triumphant sacrifice of Christ. It is a love that goes to the uttermost, a light which shines in the darkest places of death, destruction and despair. The Gospels record the great cry of Jesus as he died: "It is accomplished," for "Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won."

It is that triumph of the love of God over evil, sin and death that is at the heart of Holy Cross Day; and the Cross seen in the light of Easter proclaims, in the words of Lady Julian of Norwich, that "the love of God has come down to the lowest part of our need", a love that will never let us down, and will never let us go.

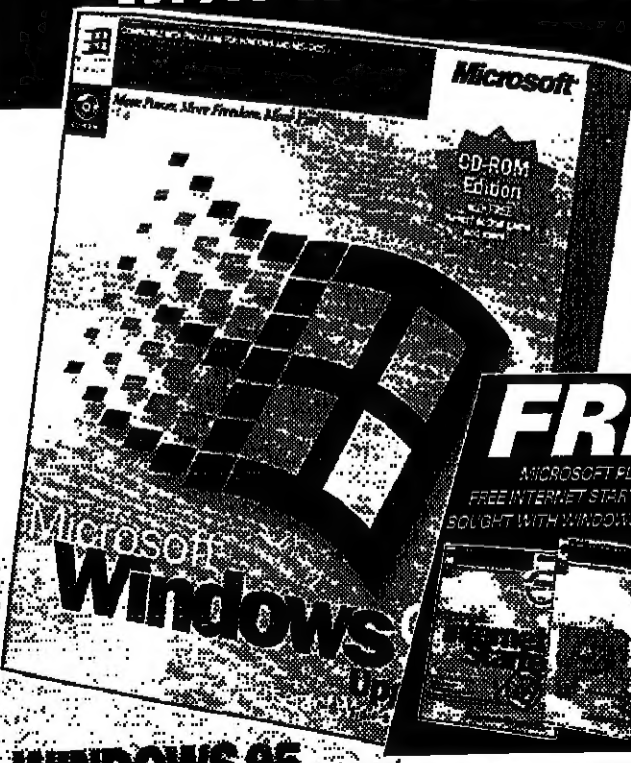
Dr Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.



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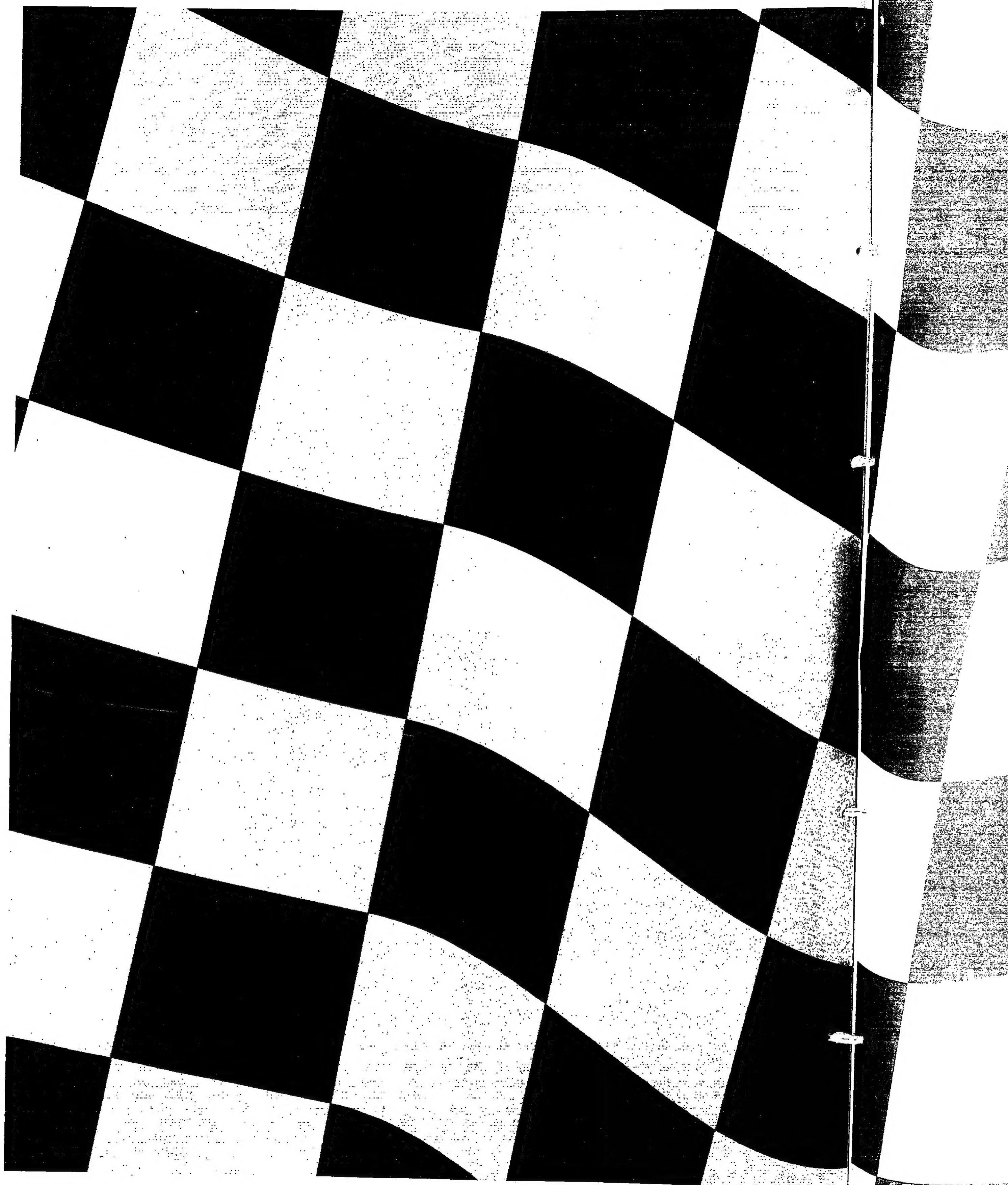
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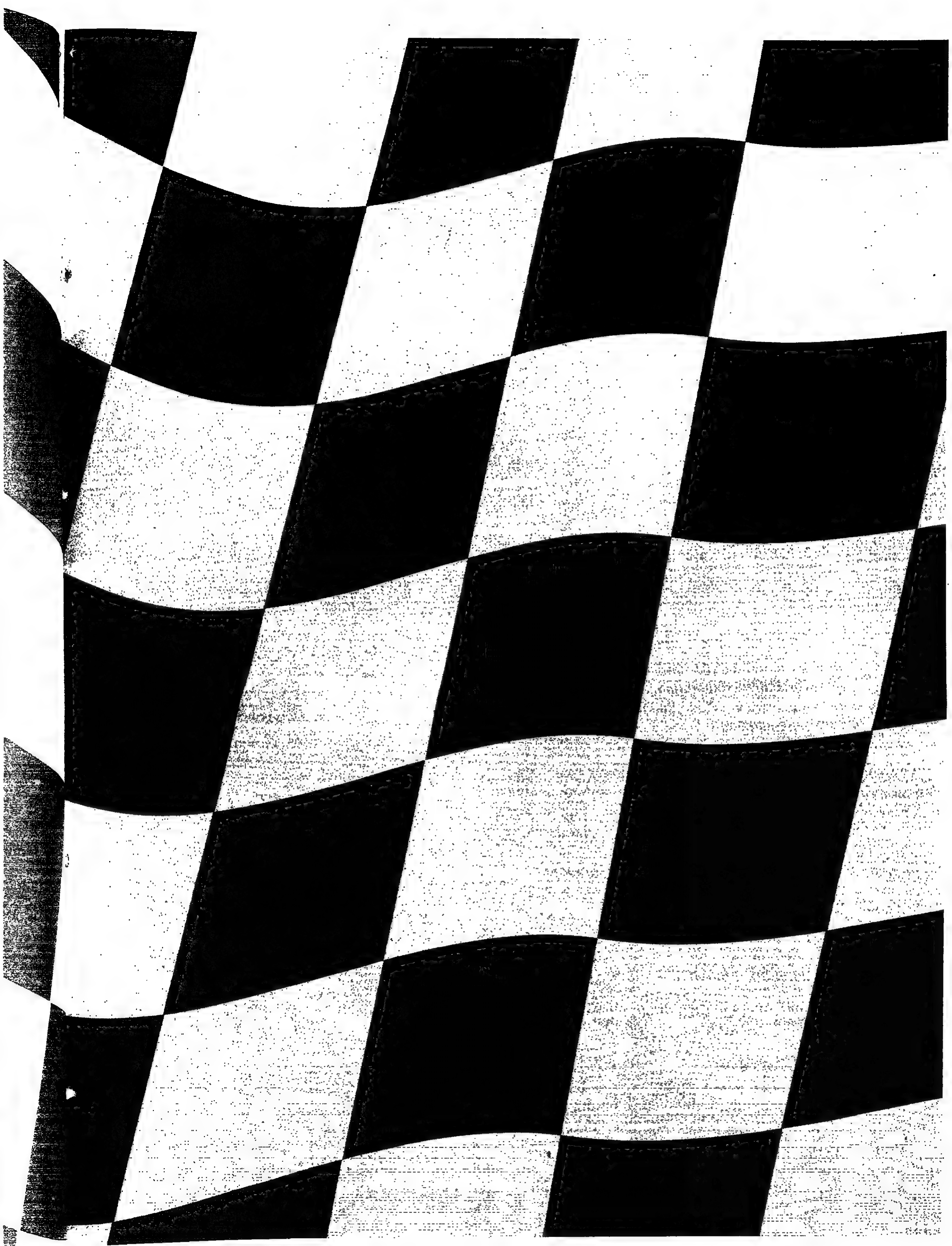
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Pressure builds on 'pariah' Britain for currency deal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN DUBLIN

BRITAIN will come under renewed pressure from its partners today to join a system designed to ensure stability between the planned European single currency and countries outside it.

The threat of disruption between the future "inner" zone of economic and monetary union and countries outside it will be at the heart of talks in Dublin where finance ministers are to put the finishing touches to the machinery for launching the euro, as the new currency is to be called.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will repeat Britain's lack of interest in joining a new-looking monetary system, supported by all the other EU states, which will seek to tie the so-called "out" currencies to the euro.

"to avoid cutting Europe in two. What we have to do is maintain the security of the single market."

The risk that EMU will indeed divide Europe has become a central theme of British concern with the approach of the entry deadline — early 1998. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, sounded a warning over a possible schism that could be triggered by an ill-advised leap to monetary union. Britain had hoped to win the support of Italy, Spain and other states likely to be excluded from the first wave of EMU. However, the Government has so antagonised the continental states that it stands isolated.

"Until the next election, I'm afraid London has made itself a bit of a pariah," a senior Belgian official said. Fear of

falling to make the EMU grade is, however, stirring growing tension between the rich north European members and the more fiscally profligate southern states. But Britain's qualms will have little effect on the Dublin talks, where most of the remaining nuts and bolts of the EMU machine are to be forged.

"The EMU car will be finished by the end of this year in time for the member states to get into the driver's seat a year later," M de Silguy said.

While poor economic performers such as Italy and Spain are becoming worried about their possible exclusion, the passage of Germany's austerity budget and the unveiling of France's own version has created a surge of optimism among the likely founding holders of the euro. Austerity budgets are expected to bring the two key economies through the EMU entrance test.

The French budget hinges on book-keeping sleight-of-hand in which a heavy injection of assets from France Telecom, the state telecommunications company, has been assigned to soak up the deficit and bring it under the Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent. The Commission signalled yesterday that this controversial accounting would be approved.



De Silguy: optimistic over EMU deadline

Timothy Garton Ash, page 22



Nuns among a crowd of 120,000 who heard the Pope say Mass in Brittany yesterday

Pope reaffirms Vatican line on sex and celibacy

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE Pope yesterday reassured the Roman Catholic Church's conservative teachings on marriage, abortion and sexuality, a day after accepting the resignation of the runaway Scottish bishop, Roderick Wright.

On the second day of his four-day tour in France, the Pope described the sexual act as an irreversible spiritual covenant within marriage, as he sought to rally his French flock in the face of increasing opposition to the Vatican's views on sexual morality and priestly celibacy.

Just hours after accepting the resignation of Mr Wright, the Pope praised the "free choice of celibacy" in an address to a group of priests and nuns at St Laurent-sur-Sevre in western France.

"The demands of your vows may appear to your contemporaries difficult to understand and almost impossible to live up to. Do not let this upset you," the Pope said.

The Pope was greeted yesterday by a crowd of 120,000 pilgrims in Brittany, where he emphasised the sacrosanct nature of sex within marriage and gave a warning against a "climate of indifference and individualism".

At a meeting with 3,000 young French couples and their children in the hamlet of Sainte Anne d'Auray, a shrine to the mother of the Virgin Mary, the Pope, appearing less fatigued than on the day of his arrival, spoke of the virtues of Christian marriage and family values and

described his listeners as "the salt of the earth".

"Many essential values are being questioned," the Pope said. "The family is going through many difficulties which sometimes weaken it."

He added that those who are separated, divorced or remarried should remain members of the Christian community, "while accepting in faith the truth which the Church carries in its discipline regarding matrimony."

"In married life, the physical relations are the sign and expression of the communion between two persons. The manifestation of tenderness and body language express the conjugal pact and represent the mystery of the covenant and the mystery of the union of Christ with the Church," he said.

The 21-stop papal tour is not only a test of Pope John Paul's fragile health but also of his diplomatic delicacy. The liberal wing of the French Catholic church is increasingly opposed to his strict line on priestly celibacy, abortion, contraception and homosexuality.

According to the latest polls, more than half of all French people strongly disagree with, or have reservations about, the Pope's teachings, a figure that has doubled since 1988.

Dozens of groups, including Freemasons, anarchists and a police union, will join a demonstration in Paris on Sunday in protest at the papal visit.

Leading article, page 23

Russia warns Nato on advance east

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, yesterday issued a warning against any move to deploy Nato military equipment in the Eastern European countries which are expected to join the alliance as new members before the end of the century. He said that stationing Nato's military infrastructure closer to the borders of Russia was "unacceptable".

Speaking in Vienna, before meeting Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, Mr Primakov was reaffirming Russia's revised policy towards the alliance's expansion plans, outlined in June. Rather

than oppose expansion outright, as it had done in the past, Moscow is trying to limit the impact of a Western alliance approaching its borders. Poland — which shares a frontier with Russia — the Czech Republic and Hungary are likely to be the first to join an expanded Nato.

Addressing the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is based in Vienna, Mr Primakov said he realised that Moscow had no right of veto if former Warsaw Pact countries wanted to join Nato. He emphasised Russia's vision for a wider European security structure based on the OSCE. He said the OSCE, which includes most of Europe, the United

States and Canada, was uniquely positioned to be Europe's main security body.

All organisations involved in security policy should have an input in a restructured OSCE, he said. That would include the United Nations, Nato, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Western European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

After the meeting with the Nato Secretary-General, Mr Primakov announced that Russia will continue to provide troops for peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina next year after the Nato-led operation comes to an end.

Leading article, page 23

Anger at car rape ruling

Madrid: A woman alleging date rape appealed to the Supreme Court after a magistrate's tribunal in Valladolid, northern Spain, ruled that it was impossible to commit rape in a Renault Clio (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

In a judgment that angered women's groups, the tribunal ruled: "Even if you recline the seats to their fullest extent, the cramped interior configuration of the car ensures that the consummation of the act is quite impossible."

More medical tests for Yeltsin

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN MOSCOW

BORIS YELTSIN will remain in hospital for three or four more days of tests before his heart bypass operation, the Kremlin's chief doctor said yesterday.

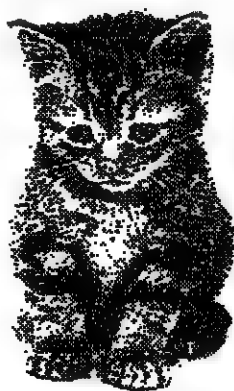
A date for the 65-year-old Russian President's surgery is expected to be set on Wednesday at a doctors' meeting that will include Dr. Michael DeBakey, an American specialist, Dr. Sergei Mironov said. Asked about rumours of

liver problems that could complicate the surgery, Dr. Mironov said that the liver was always a consideration with a patient of Mr Yeltsin's age, but there were "no big problems". Coronary artery bypass surgery normally has about a 96 per cent survival rate and specialists have said that the chances are good that Mr Yeltsin will return to vigorous health. However, undisclosed complications could make the operation significantly more dangerous. Rumours that Mr Yeltsin has other problems

have circulated for years: his political career has been punctuated by sudden, unexplained absences and bouts of unusual behavior. This week speculation about additional health problems was fuelled by his week-long stay in hospital for tests. Aides said after he arrived last Friday that he would be there only through that weekend.

Dr. Mironov played down talk of complications. "A very serious operation is ahead, which requires very significant preparation," he said.

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CHANGING TIMES

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THE TIMES

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THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF PROCTER & GAMBLE PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

Lloyds bid values Abbey Life at £4.4bn

By ADAM JONES

LLOYDS TSB is to buy out the minority shareholding in Lloyds Abbey Life. The deal values the shares at £4.4 billion. The bank already owns 62.6 per cent of the shares and had been widely expected to make the bank a full subsidiary.

The bank also confirmed that Peter Ellwood, deputy group chief executive, will become chief executive in February when Sir Brian Pitman, the chief executive, becomes chairman — as revealed in *The Times* yesterday.

The proposal to make Lloyds Abbey Life a whollyowned subsidiary comes after speculation on a possible bid from Prudential. The rumours had lifted the share price from about 450p at the start of this year to 592p.

A source close to the deal said that the rumours had forced the bank's hand: "It has had to move earlier than it would have liked."

Both the bid and the boardroom changes are related results of the merger of Lloyds and TSB last December when it was apparent that there were areas of overlap. TSB

had its own general and life insurance arm, while Lloyds' majority stake in Lloyds Abbey Life gave it similar exposure through subsidiaries like the Black Horse Financial Services Group. There was also duplication in property services and in consumer financing.

The bid will enable Lloyds TSB to integrate some overlapping businesses. But it seems unlikely at this stage that there will be forced redundancies. A source close to the bank said any changes to staffing levels would be absorbed by the natural flow of employees.

Stephen Maran, chief executive of Lloyds Abbey Life, said: "The relationship between Lloyds Abbey Life and Lloyds TSB needed to be the subject of discussion after the merger, and this is the right step for both organisations." He added that the company's progress in conforming to the review into pensions mis-selling would not be affected.

The agreed bid for the minority stake of 635p a share is 7 per cent higher than a closing price of 592p before yesterday's announcement.

Some analysts yesterday thought 635p was too much. Roman Cizdyn of Merrill Lynch said: "I think it's a high price." Lloyds TSB shares closed at 378½p, a fall of 12½p. Lloyds Abbey Life shares rose 28½p to 620½p.

However, it was widely thought that a deal was inevitable. On the whole banks are keen to move into the insurance market for its relatively low risk and volatility. One analyst said Lloyds TSB was prevented from acting earlier by the merger and subsequent acquisition of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society: "They would have had their hands pretty full."

Under the proposal, minority shareholders will be given seven Lloyds TSB ordinary shares for every six shares held. They will also get 300p per share in cash — it is expected that about 50p of this will come from a tax-efficient special dividend.

Shareholders will be allowed to take half their Lloyds TSB shares in cash, too. More details will be released early next week.

Tempus, page 30



Sir Brian Pitman, left, chairman-elect of Lloyds TSB, with Peter Ellwood yesterday

Boots in French skincare deal

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS said yesterday that it had acquired Laboratoires Lutsia, a French skincare specialist, for £115 million.

It said that the purchase by Boots Healthcare International would give BHI total sales in France of £57.5 million. It would also boost total BHI skincare sales to more than £75 million in a full year.

It has bought Laboratoires Lutsia from Roussel Uclaf, part of Hoechst Marion Roussel, which intends to concentrate on pharmaceuticals. Boots said that BHI planned significant expansion of Lutsia's Lutsine anti-ageing and Onagrine anti-ageing skincare ranges, particularly in export markets. Sales of the two products in France were £39.4 million in 1995.

The deal is in line with BHI plans to build businesses in each key European market place, particularly in its core products, which are analgesics under the Nurofen brand, cough and throat treatments, such as Strepsils, and skincare.

Boots said after the deal that these three areas would account for more than 60 per cent of BHI sales.

Lutsia has a 7 per cent share of French skincare products sold only through pharmacies and employs more than 200 people. BHI will use the Lutsia salesforce to promote its own brands of skincare while its own team will focus on Nurofen and Strepsils.

Barry Clare, managing director of BHI, said: "Together Lutsia and BHI will create a formidable business. Beyond France there is real potential for growth." The price includes repayment of inter-company debt of about Fr50 million. Boots shares closed up 5½p at 641½p.

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WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES

Savings & Investment New four part series starts next week

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3964.1	(-10.2)
Yield	3.53%	
FT-SE All share	1953.44	(-3.88)
Nikkei	21112.24	(-210.81)
Dow Jones	5885.11	(+27.37)
S&P Composite	886.77	(+3.77)

3M RATE	8 1/4%	(3.1%)
Federal Funds	8 1/4%	(3.1%)
Long Bond	7.04%	(7.05%)
Yield	7.04%	(7.05%)

LONDON MONEY	8 1/4%	(3.1%)
3-month interbank	8 1/4%	(3.1%)
Life long gilt	107%	(107%)
Future (Dec)	107%	(107%)

STERLING	1.5555	(1.5558)
New York	1.5555	(1.5558)
London	1.5555	(1.5558)
DM	2.3358	(2.3480)
FF	7.9845	(7.9919)
SF	1.9282	(1.9289)
Yen	170.74	(169.47)
£ Index	86.1	(85.9)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR	1.5150	(1.5138)
London	1.5150	(1.5138)
DM	5.1325	(5.1486)
SF	1.2387	(1.2430)
Yen	109.85	(109.43)
£ Index	97.1	(97.0)

Tokyo close Yen 109.92

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$21.40	(\$21.45)
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GOLD

London close	\$381.75	(\$382.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

Cunard chairman leaves the bridge

By OLIVER AUGUST

CUNARD, the cruise line operator, hit new problems yesterday when Peter Ward resigned as executive chairman.

He is the second chairman to have left Cunard after less than two years. John Olsen, his predecessor, was ousted in June last year after a bungled refit of the QE2.

Mr Ward's stewardship of Cunard was overshadowed by the incident in May in which the *Royal Viking Sun*, its newest and most luxurious liner, ran aground off Egypt.

Kvaerner, the engineering

group that owns Cunard after taking over Trafalgar House, said that Mr Ward, who was based at Cunard's New York headquarters, had decided to return to London to pursue other interests. The former head of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars will not receive a pay-off.

Antti Pankakoski, currently vice-president of Kvaerner's shipbuilding business, is to succeed Mr Ward at Cunard.

Kvaerner said that companies interested in buying Cunard had approached it, but it was not in negotiations.

Ford joins rush to beat works council deadline

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FORD is expected today to become one of the last transnational firms to set up a consultative European-style works council before tomorrow's Brussels deadline for voluntary agreements on them.

The carmaker's move follows a rush of last-minute deals, including Unilever and Barclays Bank yesterday, to conclude European Works Council (EWC) agreements before tomorrow's deadline under an EU directive — in spite of the UK opt-out from the EU re-

quirement. Ford confirmed yesterday that it will sign a draft deal for a works council covering all European employees, including those in the UK, by the deadline.

From Monday, companies setting up EWCs must do so in accordance with strict guidelines in the directive after the ending tomorrow of the period for voluntary agreements, allowing much greater latitude.

Unilever announced a council providing "effective" information and consultation for its

80,000 employees across Europe, including the UK; managers and 31 staff representatives from all EU countries and Switzerland will meet annually. The Barclays European forum will cover the bank's 80,000 employees in Europe, including the UK.

The UK opt-out from the Maastricht treaty social chapter makes it unnecessary for British companies covered by the EU directive to include UK staff, but many have done so rather than run two systems in Europe.

Wickes to explain on profits

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE BOARD of Wickes, the DIY retailer, will next week prepare a letter to send to shareholders explaining how it came to overstate profits by £50 million over four years.

The board has seen early drafts of a report by Linklater & Paines, the solicitor, and Price Waterhouse, the accountant, which will be the basis for its explanation. Wickes plans to write to shareholders by the end of this month.

The solicitor's brief has been to concentrate on who was behind accounting irregularities that arose from the treatment of rebates from suppliers. It is not yet known whether the solicitor's report will be passed on to the police. Wickes has said it will not take any legal action.

The accountant will provide a restated, "clean" balance sheet. This will enable the shares, suspended on June 25 at 67p, to resume trading.

Wickes is thought to be looking at a £30 million rights issue once the full extent of the profits shortfall is in the open.

Puttnam to quit Chrystalis board after rows

By JASON NISSE

SIR David Puttnam, the film producer whose successes include *Chariots of Fire* and *Midnight Express*, is to resign from the board of Chrystalis, the media group, amid rows about the running of the company.

His resignation is expected to be announced on Monday and follows his public condemnation of the way Chrystalis, which owns TV,

music and sports interests, has handled its withdrawal from film production.

Sir David's departure is also expected to bring to the boil a row about the way the loss-making group is run by Chris Wright, its founder, chairman and largest shareholder.

Chrystalis closed its film division earlier this month, having lost about £2 million of a £4 million investment in attempting to develop a UK-based feature film studio. The decision to

pull out was made by Mick Pillsworth, chief executive of Chrystalis Visual Entertainment, with Mr Wright's backing.

However Sir David, who used to run Columbia Pictures, the Hollywood film studio, was unhappy about not being consulted as he was publicly involved in launching the project.

He said in a written statement: "Given the choices the company has to make about its future, I have few arguments with the

fundamental decision, although as a member of the board I have enormous reservations about the way it has been implemented."

Sir David was out of the country yesterday and unable to comment further. However he is understood to have been pressing, along with other members of the board, for the appointment of a full-time managing director.

A candidate was brought in to meet heads of department before he decided to reject the post.

Giotto, Brunelleschi, Bramante, Donatello, Raffaello, Leonardo, Botticelli, Masaccio, Mantegna, Michelangelo. In other words: welcome to Florence.

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Regulators must decide on free market or control

If, like me, you were born during the second half of Eric Hobsbawm's short 20th century (1914-1996) continuous relative decline has seemed normal. Neither the extremity of the terror of war nor the victories have been our experience. But the extremities at the beginning of the short century have shadowed our lives.

It was not long before 1914 that Britain's economic wealth and military strength equalled that of the US. And even in the 1960s, a government poster campaign trumpeted: "Britain leads the world in... quoting atomic power and shipbuilding among a long list of industries. Today a campaign like that would be ridiculous. Not just America and Japan, but China, the "tigers" and the European Union have moved Britain into a different place.

Eleven years ago I was fortunate to join a management team led by John King and Colin Marshall, who seemed less affected by the

shadow of our history. They, whether through personality or experience, (Colin's formative experience had all been in the US) seemed more interested in doing things and being creative, not worrying so much why things hadn't happened. And they ran a business that they thought could be better.

British aviation can claim to have a leading position in the world. How is this? Partly history, partly entrepreneurial spirit. British trailblazers led the field, launching the world's first scheduled passenger flight, in 1919, to Paris. A Briton invented the jet engine (but it was exploited in America) and automatic landings. British Airways' predecessors — Imperial Airways, BOAC, BEA and many more — made London the aviation crossroads of the world, inaugurated the first civilian passenger jets and first supersonic services, created a world-spanning route network, and scored many industry firsts. And

then, more recently, there were other airline entrepreneurs, Adam Thompson, Michael Bishop, Freddie Laker and Richard Branson. They, too, look forward not back.

London's financial services are comparable. Since Big Bang, London has had to fight for its place as a major financial centre. So far it has succeeded. But now we face the challenge of the next century: how to keep and improve Britain's place in aviation.

The challenge comes from the emerging global alliances, which, with privatisation, are transforming the airline industry. They will offer consumers lower prices, easier connections, better networks, greater choice, better services, and liberalised markets. I believe that we must embrace this change and look forward again.

After 75 years (most of the short century) most airlines and regulators still think of nationality. They are more concerned with the possessive adjective, "our" airlines,

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Robert Ayling

"our" route rights. The roots of the current restrictions on who can own airlines lie in defence not economic considerations. Their sell-by date has passed.

Resolving tensions between national interests and what companies want will not be easy. The nature of air travel is changing. As competition intensifies, newly privatised

airlines will seek efficiencies by belonging to one global alliance or another. We can already foresee 600-seat intercontinental aircraft connecting traffic from major exchange points. Instead of national citizens, airlines will become world citizens.

Because so many passengers now transfer internationally, alliances must compete for their total journey with a single good-value fare, well timed connections, transfers within one terminal, good schedules, frequent flyer rewards for the whole trip (not just one sector) and lounges at airports where they do not fit themselves.

A growing number of European/US alliances already offer these benefits. Passengers from Des Moines, Iowa, to Düsseldorf can choose Lufthansa/United, KLM/Northwest or Delta-Sabena-Swissair-Austrian.

Airline services across the Atlantic have expanded remarkably since 1995 when President Clinton

liberalised airline treaties with many European countries. Britain was not among them. I have recently called for Britain to move in this direction too and I welcome the Government's positive response. It has said that BA's proposed alliance agreement with American Airlines is a basis on which liberalisation can go ahead.

The central issue is the 1977 UK/US Air Services treaty known as "Bermuda 2". It stops UK airlines flying routes within the US and US airlines flying to London, in sharp contrast to Europe's fast opening skies, blocking progress.

The market place now is Europe/USA, not UK/USA. Liberalisation will help Britain's industry to grow. Customers will enjoy lower prices, more competition and better service. We would also be able to attract new transfer passengers to the combined network to the benefit of both BA and American Airlines and both countries. Now our regulators must decide

where our public interest lies. Do they want a free market — or a controlled one? If progress is blocked or airlines are burdened with concessions not expected from competitors, Britain will lose its lead. So Bermuda 2 must change — on terms fair to both sides.

Many forces are transforming the aviation industry as they are transforming the world. Airlines are being privatised. They will be less featherbedded by governments. They will become more efficient. Fares are falling steadily in real terms. New technology will offer the chance to maintain momentum.

British Airways has just unveiled plans for its second transformation to offer new customer benefits, restructure and reskill the workforce, shed 5,000 jobs and achieve £1 billion in efficiencies — while we are ahead.

The author is chief executive of British Airways

Colonial to share out £500m

About 360,000 UK investors look set to receive average payouts of £1,300 when Colonial Mutual Life Assurance secures a stock market listing early next year.

Colonial, the smallest of Australia's big three mutual life insurance groups, is to give AS\$1.3 billion (about £500 million) when its shares are listed on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges.

SEC inquiry

Merrill Lynch, the US bank, and senior staff are likely to be charged with securities law violations by the Securities and Exchange Commission over the collapse of Orange County, California's investment fund in 1994.

Dividend up

Grades Group, the manufacturer of flooring accessories and lighting systems, is lifting the interim dividend to 1.8p a share (up in spite of a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.53 million (£1.78 million) for the six months to June 30.

Opec set for \$26bn gain in Gulf crisis

By MARTIN BARROW

A SHARP rise in oil prices, caused by increased tension in the Gulf, could generate additional export revenues of between \$20 billion and \$26 billion for members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Petroleum exports by the 11 members of Opec should total about \$159 billion this year, up \$26 billion or 20 per cent from the \$132 billion earned last year, according to the Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES), based in London.

Oil, at an average of \$19 for

the benchmark North Sea Brent crude so far this year, traded at \$21.79 per barrel yesterday. It should easily outstrip last year's \$17 average during the final quarter of the year.

Higher oil prices mean more expensive heating bills this winter for countries in the northern hemisphere and further increases in the cost of petrol. But increased revenue will allow debt-ridden Opec producers — most of which made modest assumptions for oil prices in their budget

projections — to eat into deficits, pay debts, ease financial reform programmes and spend on infrastructure.

Leo Drollas, chief economist at CGES, said: "Opec's in for a much-needed increase in revenues because we don't see much chance of oil prices coming down during the remainder of the year."

The military standoff between Iraq and the US sent Brent to five-year highs last week and left tight markets to cope without the expected resumption of Iraqi exports under a United Nations oil-for-food arrangement.

Saudi Arabia, Opec's biggest producer, which budgeted for crude prices of between \$14 and \$14.50 a barrel in January, can expect to make up to an extra \$10 billion, according to Middle East analysts. That would more than wipe out the \$4.9 billion deficit on spending of \$40 billion projected by Riyadh this year.

Foreign currency reserves run down during the 1990-91 Gulf War, are being rebuilt and debts to contractors repaid.

Signet revamp plan

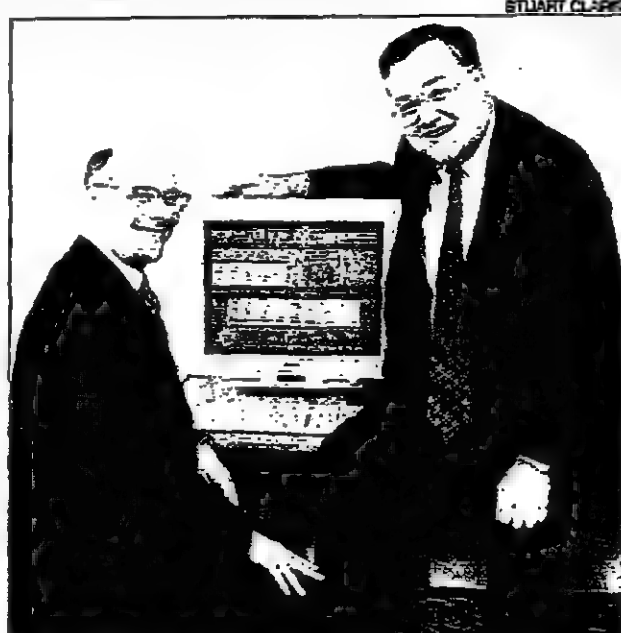
THE BOARD of Signet, which has called off talks to sell the Ernest Jones and H Samuel jewellery chains, is now aiming for a capital reconstruction (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Board members yesterday explained the surprise decision to abort a proposed sale to Apex Partners, which had offered £278 million. Preference shareholders, who own 25 per cent of the company's capital, are owed

about £150 million in unpaid dividends. The main shareholders are the Active Value Fund, Everest Capital, CSFB and MID Sass of New York.

The company hopes that its nine different classes of shareholders and its banks will agree to a capital reconstruction involving a debt-for-equity swap.

Tempus, page 30



Michael Waller-Bridge, left, with Lasmo's Dick Smernoff

Tradepoint to expand

TRADEPOINT, the new electronic rival to the London Stock Exchange, is to move into either bonds or foreign equities after failing to make a serious impact on the UK equities market in its first year (Fraser Nelson writes).

Figures released yesterday show that the company, which broke the Stock Exchange's 200-year monopoly last year, carved out a market share of less than 0.05 per cent in its first year — 20 times below the 2 per cent share it

needs to break even. It traded £300 million of stock in its maiden year, connecting 2,800 buyers and sellers. In the year to June, the main exchange processed bargains worth £716 billion.

Michael Waller-Bridge, Tradepoint's chief executive, said that while the group was still a long way from breaking even, it had become established as a serious rival to the main exchange.

Tempus, page 30

Microsoft in anti-trust Net inquiry

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT, the computer company, is under investigation by the US Justice Department over alleged anti-trust practices that involve using its market dominance to sell software for the Internet.

The investigation is the latest development in the war between Microsoft and smaller rivals such as Netscape to become a leader in selling browser software needed for surfing the Internet. The winner of this battle is likely to set the standards for Net technology, just as Microsoft now sets the standards for personal computer software.

Netscape, the first into the field, has about 80 per cent of the browser market but Microsoft has put massive resources into gaining a larger share. Netscape accuses Microsoft of using illegal tactics in giving away its browser software with other software such as Windows 95, and giving it a more prominent position on computer screens than Netscape's Navigator.

Microsoft has been under intermittent investigation for six years over whether or not it violated anti-trust rules in selling its PC software.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.05	1.90
Austria Sch	17.55	16.05
Belgium Fr	51.30	47.09
Canada \$	2.24	2.074
Cyprus Cyp£	0.757	0.702
Denmark Kr	9.82	8.82
Finland Mk	7.81	6.96
France Fr	8.40	7.75
Germany Dr	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	390	365
Hong Kong \$	12.55	11.65
Iceland	115	85
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.32	4.67
Italy Lit	2477	2232
Japan Yen	194.70	188.70
Malta	0.801	0.546
Netherlands Gld	2.789	2.588
New Zealand \$	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.61	9.81
Portugal Esc	200.50	232.00
S Africa Rd	7.57	6.77
Spain Ptas	204.00	191.00
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.88
Turkey Lira	145300	135300
USA \$	1.652	1.522

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

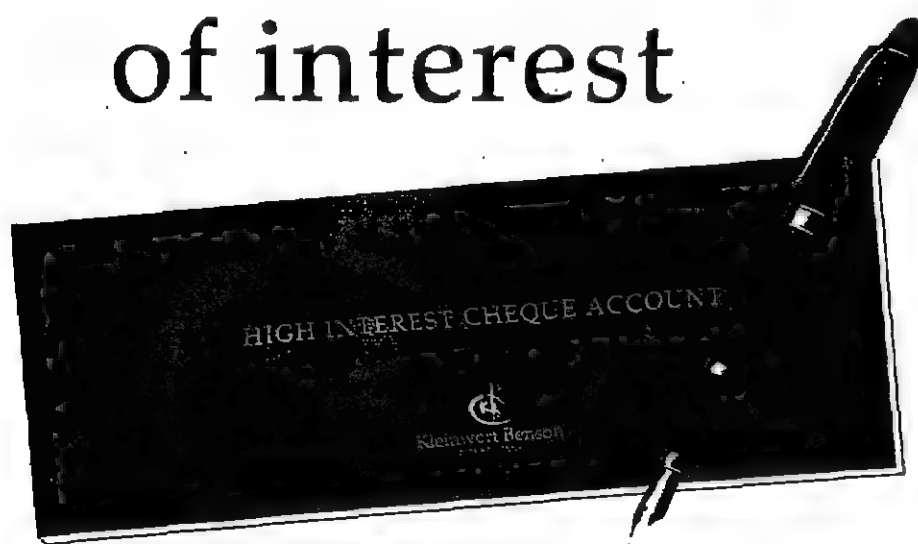
THE SUNDAY TIMES

When Gordon Selfridge opened his first shop in 1909 it became a part of Britain's cultural and commercial life. Department stores are now spending tens of millions trying to recapture their glory days. But will they ever manage to...?

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Save up to 50% on Johansens Short Breaks



The Times is offering readers exclusive savings of up to 50% on short breaks at 365 Johansens recommended hotels, inns and country houses throughout Great Britain, Ireland and, for the first time this year, Europe.

The offer, valid until May 31, 1997, entitles you to savings of 25% to 50% off the normal bed and breakfast rates for two people staying for a minimum of two and a maximum of five consecutive nights. At some hotels you may be able to stay for longer. A full list of participating Johansens establishments appeared in our 24-page colour guide on Tuesday.

To take advantage of this offer book direct with your chosen hotel quoting The Times offer and present a voucher with two pre-printed tokens plus a further two tokens on arrival at the hotel. Token six appears below and a second voucher will be printed tomorrow. A voucher and tokens will also appear in The Sunday Times this week.

You could stay at Peterstow Country House near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Originally a rectory, Peterstow has an award-winning restaurant and an international wine list. The price for two people is £50 per night before your 33% discount.

ATTACH TWO MORE DIFFERENTLY NUMBERED TOKENS FROM THE TIMES/ THE SUNDAY TIMES. THIS VOUCHER IS VALID UNTIL MAY 31, 1997.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES JOHANSENS SHORT BREAKS TOKEN 7

THE SUNDAY TIMES JOHANSENS SHORT BREAKS TOKEN 8

CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة من الأصل

A WORKING WEEK FOR: DAVID ELSTEIN

Broadcaster who leapt at chance to 'Take 5'

Eric Reguly talks to the TV executive with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to influence the lives of millions of Britons

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

DAVID Elstein's first day at Channel 5 was met with good and bad news. The good news was that the Government had finally awarded the

channel an extra broadcast frequency, allowing it to reach another two million or so homes. The bad news was that "retuning" those extra homes to receive the channel without interference would delay its launch, while increasing start-up costs. "It makes a delicate operation even more complicated," Elstein said.

Indeed, Channel 5, whose publicity effort had been geared to a splashy New Year's Day debut, probably will not hit the airwaves until mid-February and some television executives think March is the better bet. They suspect that Channel 5's effort to retune more than ten million homes was cracking under pressure even before the second frequency was granted.

Elstein, 51, who became chief executive last Monday, admits the retuning campaign has hit a few snags but, so far, no disasters. None of the returners has been accused of assault, theft or damaging property — any of which would have triggered a public relations nightmare — although there have been a few instances of electronic stalemate. "There was one guy who took three days to retune a house when it should have been 20 minutes," he said.

The recruitment process, though, is going more slowly than expected. Even before the extra frequency was awarded, Channel 5's roll-out plan called for the hiring and training of 7,000 returners, all of whom were to be rigorously checked for criminal records. So far, only 4,000 have signed up and about 500,000 homes — less than 5 per cent of the total in the newly enlarged coverage area — have been adapted to receive the channel.

If this were not headache enough, Elstein has to commission productions, create programming schedules and marketing and publicity campaigns, sell advertising, hire management, renovate offices and prevent anxiety attacks among Channel 5's shareholders as delays

and costs mount. The retuning bill is now estimated at £120 million, raising Channel 5's total launch costs to more than £250 million.

It seems overwhelming but getting Channel 5 off the ground is seen as the most attractive job to appear in the industry for some time. It is the country's last terrestrial broadcaster and its new boss has a once-in-a-lifetime chance to stamp his personality on a service with the potential to influence the daily lives of most Britons.

Its viewers will not be required to pay a fee or buy new hardware or software; they simply have to turn it on or off. The problem is gaining their sustained attention. The consensus is that unless Channel 5 grabs 5 per cent of the total viewing audience, equivalent to about 8 per cent of the total non-BBC audience, it will fail to attract enough national advertisers to make it comfortably profitable. Channel 5's viability is not assured in an industry that is fragmenting rapidly — Britain is set to become one of the world's most competitive "multichannel" markets with the arrival of hundreds of digital pay-TV channels.

As it is, no advertiser has made a commitment to Channel 5. One senior airtime sales manager said: "This is a cynical business. Advertisers will not agree to spend a penny until they see a firm launch date and the programming schedule, both of which are unknown at this stage."

Fellow TV executives say that, at least on paper, Elstein seems eminently qualified for the challenge. He is one of the few senior TV managers with experience in public, commercial and satellite broadcasting. The latter is especially important because Channel 5 expects to form a number of joint ventures with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, and his former employer.

Richard Dunn, 53, the executive director of News International Television, said: "David really wanted to run Channel 5 and make a success of it. He has a rare combination of abilities to permit him to do that. He has a good grasp of marketing and programming, together with a shrewd grasp of financing and business issues."

Channel 5 has been in Elstein's sights for some time. He joined



David Elstein, the first chief executive of Channel 5: "At long last, I am in control of a major broadcaster and making the decisions at the pace that I want."

BSkyB as head of programming in 1993 and less than two years later found himself moonlighting as the chief executive of New Century Television, the BSkyB-led investor group that was formed to bid for the Channel 5 licence. If New Century had won, Elstein would have left BSkyB to become Channel 5's boss. But last October, a group called Channel 5 Broadcasting — whose shareholders are Pearson and United News & Media, both of Britain, Warburg Pincus of America and CLT of Luxembourg — snatched the prize with a £22 million bid. Elstein's dreams were shattered.

He returned his attentions to BSkyB but privately decided that he was ready for a change. He did not renew his employment contract with BSkyB late last year and Sam Chisholm, the broadcaster's chief executive, did not put him under pressure to make a commitment. Channel 5, meanwhile, was in the thick of making launch plans under

Ian Ritchie, the former managing director of London News Network. Elstein's fortunes changed, as they often do for executives, during a chance social encounter. In early

August, he attended a film in the Walt Disney company's private screening room in Kensington, and ran into Lord Hollick, the chief executive of United News & Media and a Channel 5 director. "He asked me if I would be interested in joining Channel 5 and I said I would come only as chief executive," Elstein said. "It didn't take long after that."

He signed his contract on August 28 — three years at about £300,000 a year plus a performance bonus. The irony is that Elstein never thought he would be working beyond 50. He has made enough to retire and has always been attract-

ed to academia. Channel 5, he said, was just too good to turn down.

Elstein was born in Slough in 1944 and grew up in West Hampstead, London. His Jewish parents, Albert and Millie, were lucky to be alive. A flu epidemic after the First World War left them orphaned in Poland, separated from their siblings who ended up scattered all over the world. They were adopted by poor east London Jewish families. Both ended up in the *shmatte* trade. Albert became a tailor and Millie ran a women's fashion shop called Ian Harvey in Golders Green. The shop provided young David with his first employment and his first exposure to the marvels of finance.

David and his two brothers lived well for the children of refugees. "We grew up experiencing a middle-class life and very little anti-Semitism," he said. "It was a period when you could see the generation in front of you making considerable headway in terms of business,

and it didn't feel like there were any barriers."

His parents, though, could not let go of their past. They spent much of their lives searching for lost family members. Millie eventually tracked down a sister in São Paulo, Brazil, and saw her for the first time in 50 years in the mid-1970s. Albert dreamt of better things. "He was a frustrated intellectual who read his *Economist* to the very end," Elstein said.

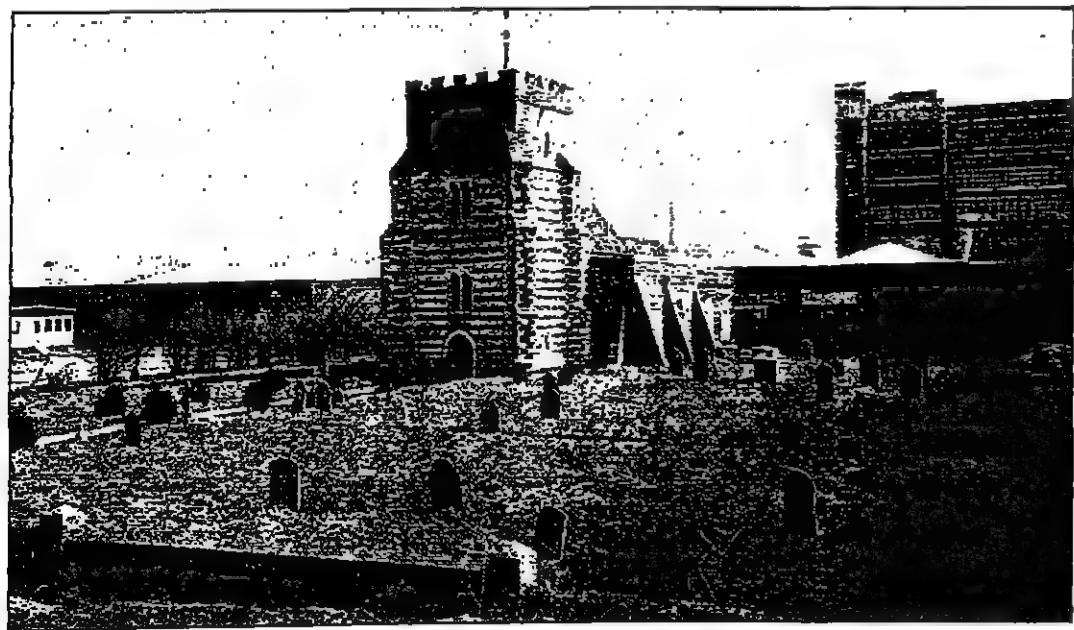
Elstein got bitten by the academic bug, too. He gained a double first in history at Cambridge at the age of 19, and for lack of anything better to do, joined the BBC as a general trainee. He has been in TV ever since. After four years at the BBC, he spent 14 years as a producer and director at Thames Television, IWT, Goldcrest, Primetime and Brook Productions, his own production company. He returned to Thames in 1986 and joined BSkyB seven years later. Elstein said that he was happiest

editing *This Week*, ITV's former current affairs programme, during the mid-1970s. But the hours were gruelling and his wife Jenny, a former on-air reporter for the BBC and Thames, made him quit before any damage was done. The other job that stood out was the acclaimed *World at War* series for ITV. He wrote and produced three of the 26 episodes and tried to commission a similar series on the First World War for BSkyB.

As his first week ended, Elstein had been worn down by meetings with civil servants, advertisers, regulators, producers and programmers and endless queries about the delay in the retuning schedule. But he said that he was not frustrated. Creating something the size of Channel 5 could never be easy. "At long last, I am in control of a major broadcaster and making the decisions at the pace I want. The retuning is as complex as I ever imagined, but the opportunities are even more exciting."

HIDDEN ASSETS

'Four Weddings' church owes rescue to soap giant



The restored St Clement's Church, West Thurrock, with Procter & Gamble's factory as a backdrop

Of all the financially rewarding assets in which a cash-rich multinational could invest, an early 12th-century parish church on an industrial estate on the Thames would surely rank an unlikely last on a long list of choices.

But Procter & Gamble has gone for the unlikely last in renting and restoring St Clement's Church, a fine stone pilgrim church near its West Thurrock detergents plant. Community gratitude was to replace cash returns on this investment, but since the spruce-up, the church has also earned its keep as the location of the funeral in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

The church's isolated position, away from any dwellings, has long been blamed for its decline, even from its beginnings as a fisherman's refuge, a low thatched building that was later rebuilt in stone and became the last stop-off point for Canterbury-bound pilgrims before crossing the Thames.

Joanna Pitman on Procter & Gamble's resurrection of a delapidated neighbour

After centuries of desolation and neglect, delapidation set in seriously in the late 19th century and church attendances fell to single figures, resulting in an on-and-off closure. By the 1970s the last remaining weekly services had been discontinued in the winter months because of cold and damp. The burdens of maintenance were beginning to prove too heavy for the local community. In 1971, after a history of almost nine centuries, the church was finally consecrated.

Industry came to the rescue. "The fact that the church lies in the shadow of a giant soap factory may have led some to remark that cleanliness is next to godliness. But it also led to its rescue and return to community use,"

says Christopher Harrold, the church historian. "By 1940 the first cases of soap were rolling off the production lines of Procter & Gamble's newest factory in West Thurrock. The company has a strong sense of history and I suppose it felt it wanted to put something into the community in which it had prospered."

In the late 1980s, Procter & Gamble decided that to commemorate its 150th anniversary it would take responsibility for St Clement's Church and churchyard and return them to the use of the community for educational and cultural purposes. The fabric of the church has been conserved and the interior refurbished. The restored weathercock is a model of the first *Ark Royal*, a recognition that St Clem-

ent was a patron saint of sailors. Medieval clay floor tiles dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries have been excavated and relaid, two medieval doors in the south chapel have been repaired and rehung, and an impressive range of marble monuments and effigies have been remounted. In the north chapel a number of small panels of medieval glass have been preserved and remounted. And a selection of lost 16th-century brasses have been replaced with replicas set in their original stone bases.

The churchyard has also been restored as far as possible to its medieval character and now contains a wildlife sanctuary stocked with rare plants and shrubs.

The church has had a curious history and still harbours many excellent mysteries. Restorers are still hoping to match the discovery a century ago of a sea captain named Nathaniel Grantham, pickled whole in rum.

You pay good money for your flight, then we recharge you.

The New Arrivals Lounge at Heathrow. UNITED AIRLINES

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares approach 4,000 before rate hopes fade

THE London stock market threw away an early lead to end the week on a flat note as the prospect of a rise in US interest rates next week loomed large.

In early trading yesterday the FT-SE 100 index reached a new intra-day high within six points of the 4,000 level before running out of steam. It closed 10.2 points down at 3,964, despite an opening rise in the Dow Jones average of almost 30 points. There was a loss on the week of just 3.8.

Lingering hopes that Monday's monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England will signal a cut in rates have all but vanished.

The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday and it now seems certain that US rates will have to rise. Faced with such a threat, the Chancellor is unlikely to consider forcing through any further cuts, especially when the Governor has already signalled he would like to see interest rates back up to 6 per cent.

The number of shares traded overall grew to 786 million with market-makers squaring up positions as the expiry of the September series of the financial future passed off uneventfully.

Among leaders Rentokil dropped 9.1p to 432.1p after a large line of shares went through as part of a bought deal. SBC Warburg, the bank, is believed to have picked up 7.53 million shares at 427p before selling them on at 433p and 435p. The seller is thought to have been a recovery fund with stock in BET before it was bought by Rentokil.

Sir Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said: "Very few institutional shareholders in BET took cash because the alternative offer was worth much more. As they now take advantage of the strength of the Rentokil share price and sell their stock, it is being snapped up by institutions previously underwritten."

Early attention was focused on Lloyds Abbey, up 28.1p to 620.1p, as Lloyds TSB confirmed plans to bid for the minority 38 per cent stake it does not already own. The bank is offering 635p a share, valuing the entire group at £4.4 billion. But the offer price falls well short of the 700p being bandied around by spec-



Matthew Clark, which has lost out to "alcapops", fell 7.1p

ulators earlier in the week. Lloyds TSB tumbled 12.1p to 378.1p as the City absorbed details of the deal. Two large buyers who snapped up stock in Lloyds TSB on Thursday at 400p are now counting a sizeable paper loss.

News of the deal gave a fresh boost to Legal & General, up 18p to 77.4p, while Sun Life firmed 1.1p to 235.1p in

day at £15.75. On Thursday the shares topped £16 before closing at a new high on the back of a bid from Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant. City speculators say the Swiss are prepared to offer £19.50 a share, valuing Zeneca at about £19 billion.

The pub and restaurant operators enjoyed selective support after a positive trading statement from Greenalls Group, up 1.4p to 579p, which last year paid more than £500 million for rival Boddingtons. Profits were significantly ahead of last year. The news put some sparkle into Compass, up 5.1p to 456p.

PizzaExpress, 3.1p to 566p, JD Wetherspoon, 12.1p to £10.42, and Whitbread, 5.2p to 696.1. Takeover target Tom Coughlin also put on 4.2p to 233p.

Matthew Clark, the drinks distributor, fell 7.1p to 350p.

Cadbury Schweppes rose 3p to 508.1p. It seems directors were in an upbeat mood at a cocktail party given for David Wellings, the outgoing chief executive, the other night and were confident that Brussels will give the go-ahead for the sale of the group's 51 per cent in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages for £623 million.

the wake of figures on Thursday. The insurance companies were also marked higher with General Accident putting on 7p to 630p, Guardian Royal Exchange 1.1p to 255p, and Royal Sun Alliance 1p to 397p.

Boots the chemist rose 5.1p to 641.1p as the market digested details of the acquisition of Laboratoires Lusia, the skin care specialist, from Roussel Uclaf for £115 million.

Zeneca ran into profit-taking, finishing 15p lower on the day at £15.75.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current	Change	Notes
Blair	+0.51p	New bid approach
Zeneca	+0.51p	Bid speculation revived
Treasury	+0.51p	Profits warning
Exco International	+0.51p	Profits warning
Robeco Group	+0.51p	Profits warning
Waters International	+0.51p	Profits warning
Waters International	+0.51p	Profits warning
Lloyds Abbey	+0.51p	Profits warning
Go-Ahead Group	+0.51p	Profits warning
BTG	+0.51p	Profits warning

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
ICE-100 (London 6.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (New York 4.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Tokyo 3.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Sydney 2.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Hong Kong 1.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Singapore 12.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Amsterdam 11.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Frankfurt 10.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Paris 9.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Brussels 8.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Zurich 7.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Stockholm 6.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Oslo 5.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Copenhagen 4.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Helsinki 3.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Tallinn 2.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Riga 1.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Vilnius 12.00am)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Lithuania 11.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Latvia 10.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Estonia 9.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Finland 8.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (Sweden 7.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
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ICE-100 (Ireland 4.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
ICE-100 (UK 3.00pm)	3,964.10	-10.20
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TRUST WATCH 35

Can you be a Euro winner like Cliff Richard?

WEEKEND MONEY

GURU'S GEMS 37

George Soros's words of wisdom on wealth creation



Pensions scandal unresolved

Compensation has yet to be paid to most victims, Sara McConnell and Adam Jones report

The pressure on life companies to settle the long-running saga of mis-sold pensions increased last week, after moves by unions and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), a consumer watchdog. Solicitors acting for victims of the scandal have been inundated with fresh requests for help after public sector unions renewed their calls to members to seek redress in the long-running saga.

The OFT this week launched an inquiry into the selling and regulation of personal pensions. While the OFT says the inquiry is looking at future strategy, some observers say it will embarrass the Personal Investment Authority, which has been accused of dragging its feet over its official review of pension mis-selling.

In addition, Ringrose Wharton, representing the Royal College of Nursing, Unison and GMB, says the firm has issued 100 questionnaires in the past two weeks in response to inquiries from union members. The firm has an estimated 400 claimants on its books and has issued 150 writs against insurance companies.

Nearly three years after the issue was first brought to the public's attention, very few of the estimated two million victims have been compensated for losses sustained when they were wrongly advised by insurance companies and advisers to transfer their funds out of generous company pension schemes and into personal pensions that represented a greater risk and almost certainly poorer value for money. Attempts to get redress have run into difficulties.

An industry-wide review of mis-sold pensions, which started in July 1994, has failed to meet its first two deadlines on investigating and compensating priority cases. Priority cases include those who have already retired, men over 50 and women over 45, and those who opted out of company schemes run by their existing employer in favour of a personal pension. Unions, claimants and their solicitors accuse the industry of deliberately spinning out the review process to avoid having to pay up.

A TUC survey last month found that nearly half the respondents had not yet received the initial review questionnaire from the insurance

company or agent that sold them the pension. By April, only 7,000 people had received compensation.

The Personal Investment Authority, monitoring the review, admitted this week that figures next month will confirm that payouts have been made to only a small number of people. It blamed the delay on problems with life company computers and industry infighting.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) claims delays that are not down to insurance companies but to problems in getting the necessary information both from schemes and from people claiming redress. Insurance companies need details from occupational schemes on the levels of benefits claimants would have got if they had stayed in their employer's schemes before they can work out compensation. But some public service schemes either cannot legally give out information or want to be paid for doing so.

Others cannot reinstate people without changing their rules. Public service schemes include those for health service workers, local and central government and teachers. Regulators admit this will have caused delays for people who would otherwise have been able to be reinstated in their employer's scheme.

It has taken until this year for insurers and the Government Actuary to agree a basis for working out the cost of reinstating people in public service schemes.

Unions, impatient with review delays, are pressing forward with separate court action in spite of pressure from pension providers to stay within the review. Unions announced this month that it was taking legal action "following hundreds of complaints from disgruntled members" because it was "dissatisfied with the progress made by the life and pensions industry". The RCN and GMB had previously announced their intention to take legal action.

The first 46 cases will be heard this December in Bristol. The unions hope that this will set the pace for substantial compensation.

Bill Day, pensions officer of the GMB, said: "We are hopeful the cases will set down standards for tens of thousands of pounds worth of compensation, which should alert people that they may be in line for a payout."

But even when people receive compensation, they have no way of knowing if the payout is fair, says Robert Wharton of Ringrose Wharton. Some insurers are refusing to pay the extra cost of having the payout independently checked as part of their claim.



The pensions mis-selling inquiry is all at sea, with victims yet to be compensated and the sharks still at large

High cost of bad advice

Putting your money in the wrong personal pension can cut your final pension fund by more than £60,000 over 15 years, a new survey out next month will show (Sara McConnell writes). High charges and/or poor fund performance dramatically reduce payouts from the worst performers, according to *Money Management*, the specialist magazine.

Many of those wrongly advised to transfer or opt out of their employer's pension scheme into personal pensions will be in plans that have performed indifferently or inconsistently, the survey results show.

Two months ago, the TUC published a damning report naming the Prudential, Pearl, Legal & General and TSB as among those active in pension mis-selling. Of these companies, only the Pearl ranks among the best with profits policies (for monthly premiums). None appears in *Money Management*'s "best buy" unit linked pensions categories. Five and four star "best buys" are those companies denoting consistently above average performance and include Equitable Life, Norwich Union, Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star and Scottish Equitable.

Someone paying £200 a month into the best performing with-profits fund, Scottish Mutual, will build up a fund of £139,818 after 15 years. The same money going into the worst with-profits performer, Britannia Life, would get just £82,151, a difference of £57,667. On the unit linked side, Sun Life of Canada's managed fund would produce £104,809 after 15 years, while Merchant Investors, would produce just £76,924. The same person investing a single lump sum of £10,000 would get £97,646 from the Pearl's with profits fund after 15 years but only £35,340 from Britannia Life. The £10,000 in a managed fund would turn into £96,633 with the Pearl but only £54,044 with Skandia. *Money Management* is available from September 23 at £4.95.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

King's crowning glory



John King: 121 letters

The advertisement in the local paper held out the prospect of big money for people transferring frozen pensions from previous employers into personal pensions (Sara McConnell writes). John King, then 59, responded and was persuaded by the firm of independent financial advisers that had placed the advertisement to transfer his frozen company pension of more than £1,100 into a personal pension.

By last year, he realised he had made a mistake. He refused to accept the adviser's offer of compensation. He took his case to the Personal Investment Authority, the Securities and Investments Board and his MP.

Mr King's hopes of a peaceful retirement were temporarily dashed as he fought a

confusion of regulators. "Letters came from different addresses, you waited for six weeks with no reply, replies were conflicting and there was a general lack of cohesion and co-ordination," he says. Exactly 121 letters later, his case was taken in hand by the PIA ombudsman, who ruled that Mr King should have his pension restored to its original value.

Strangely, Mr King's case appears to have slipped through the pensions mis-selling review net, although his case would have qualified as a priority under the scheme rules. The PIA declined to comment or suggest reasons why this might have been. The resolution of his case, in less than a year, was decidedly slick compared with the pensions review.

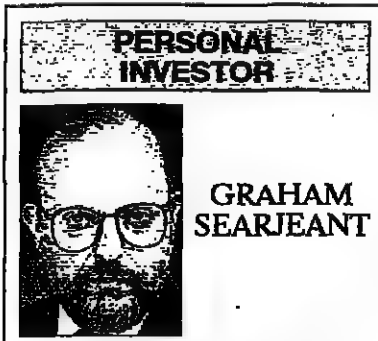
Cash can be a gamble too

Times are tough for top fund managers. Hard on the unfolding Morgan Grenfell debacle, PDFM, better known as Phillips & Drew Fund Managers, is on the rack. Over the past 20 months, Tony Dye, its investment chief, has gradually put more of the £50 billion pension funds the group manages into cash and index-linked gilt-edged stocks: about 20 per cent in all. He thinks equity markets do not offer good value. As share prices in New York and London continue to boom intermittently, big clients are starting to complain. Forget long-term strategy, said one. Mr Dye has six months to perform. For this to happen, there has to be a crash.

PDFM's moderate caution will hardly shock private investors. Most of us are perennially 20 per cent liquid, because we need access to cash, because of native prudence or, for many of us, through sheer indolence. Having a fifth of a fund in cash is not the same as being totally liquid, but the issues are much the same.

Selling a boom can make speculators rich. In 1907, Shinosuke Nomura secured the fortunes of his mighty Japanese house by selling short near the top of a rise, though he only just made it to the ensuing crash. Such tactics rarely pay for long-term investors, because it is harder to spot the buying point after a downturn than the top of a boom.

The worst modern UK bear market started in summer 1972. As it happens, I identified the top in *The Sunday Times* but, like others, had little idea what was to come over the next 2½ years. One bright fund manager gradually went entirely liquid. By new year 1975, when



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Burmah Oil had to be rescued and the end of investment seemed nigh, he looked pretty smart. The FT-SE all-share index had fallen 73 per cent. Then prices jumped 70 per cent in three weeks. Over the piece, his funds were the worst performers, even if the index did not top its 1972 peak until 1977.

Over the long haul, stock prices trend upwards as the economy grows. So it is more important to share in upturns than to avoid slumps. Regular savers should plough on regardless.

Life is not so easy if you have to invest a lump sum or decide when to convert a private pension. Since the 1970s, there have been no long UK bear markets, though prices fell in 1990 and 1994. That is no guarantee for the future. PDFM argues that its standback approach saved clients from being splattered when the 1990s Japanese bubble burst and shares fell 60 per cent in 30 months.

Mini versions of the October 1987 crash, always a seasonal ghost, are now

more typical. It suits professionals if upturns are punctuated by short, sharp corrections of varying severity, which blow away froth and get bad news out of the way fast. These are even harder to negotiate but the same principles apply.

Historic and cyclical trends are the usual guides, on share ratings, the gap between dividend yields, bond yields and the interest rate on cash. In the UK, these suggest share prices are near the top of their short-term range, rather than madly overvalued. But money interest rates are low and do not presage any cyclical downturn.

On Wall Street, historically low yields make prices vulnerable to early rises in interest rates and must be explained away by a trend to lower payouts. That is suspicious, as is the thesis that cyclical patterns have been suspended. In the UK, many question how long high rates of profit growth can be sustained after a step fall in inflation rates. Profit's share of national income can expand a bit more, but not much, Mr Dye, by contrast, fears an upturn in inflation, but there is little sign of that and it would take some time to hit share values.

Private investors have a rare advantage over the £50 billion fund manager. While markets as a whole may not offer good value, there are still plenty of individual UK shares that should produce good returns at current yields and likely rates of dividend growth. For those who make no claim to market timing, such defensive stocks, along with gilt-edged, look preferable to cash.

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Does what went up really have to come back down?

Richard Thomson looks at the perils created by the rise and rise of New York's stock market

Imagine going up in a hot air balloon. It's fun to start with, and it gets exhilarating the higher you go, but at some point you start to wonder whether it is really sensible to go any further. The New York stock market reached that point months ago.

It thought it had found the safety valve during the summer, when a drop in prices took some of the hot air out of share prices, but now the market has started to rise again. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had fallen from its pre-summer high of about 5,780, is now back at 100 points above that level. By the start of last week it had risen for eight days in a row.

Investors have again begun to wonder why it is rising and how much longer it can go on. David Schulman, chief equity strategist at Salomon Brothers in New York, said: "Of course the market is overvalued. But it's going to get overvalued some more before this is over."

Mr Schulman is predicting that unless the Federal Reserve Board spoils the party by raising interest rates in the next few days, the Dow will go above 6,200 in the foreseeable future. "If the Fed leaves rates alone, it'll be plain sailing

through November," he predicted. The reasons are at least twofold. One is the continuing river of money pouring into mutual funds (the US equivalent of unit trusts) from private investors worried about plunging up their retirement provision. In a rising market, fund managers have to invest almost all the new cash to keep up with the index, which only pushes the index higher still.

The other reason is the state of the US economy. It is, at the moment, said by the more bullish analysts to be in a "Goldilocks phase" - not too hot, not too cold, but just right like the porridge in the fable. At least that was the view until early last week, but the market is jittery and its views change almost daily.

The main worry - that the economy is growing too fast and that the Fed is planning an interest rate increase at its Open Market Committee meeting on Tuesday - surfaced strongly in the last few days. That produced a tempo-

rary setback in the market's rise, but there is an air of the market fusing over nothing.

If the Fed does raise rates, it is unlikely to be by more than 0.25 per cent, which is not enough to damage the corporate earnings outlook for next year. And there is, in any case, no certainty that it will go for a rate rise since the economic news is by no means conclusive. To some analysts, the jitters over the Fed merely indicate that investors have nothing more important to worry about.

Rather, any serious threat to share prices seems to come from elsewhere. A renewed bout of hostilities with Iraq could deliver a setback to financial markets, but this is too uncertain for most analysts to factor into their predictions. A sudden surge in US economic strength would also be a negative factor but looks unlikely at present.

And then there is the US

election. The markets like the current arrangement of a Democratic President Clinton and a Republican-led Congress. Any upset to the status quo would probably, therefore, cause some upset among investors.

The worst would probably be if the Democrats regained control of Congress, upsetting the perceived balance between liberal and conservative forces. If Bob Dole were to win the presidency there might also be some upset, since the bond markets do not like the look of his low-tax, high-spending policies. But at the moment none of these risks appears to be a significant threat. One reason for the market setback over the summer was that corporate earnings appeared to falter, but that is now behind us and most analysts agree that the prospects for next year look good.

The New York stock market, in other words, cannot find any cogent reasons not to keep on rising for the foreseeable future, even though it knows that shares are already unusually expensive. Eight months ago, few thought the 6,000 level on the Dow would be reached this year. Now it is within striking distance.

Morse code that tempts toddlers

Fidelity Investments is to target younger investors with its MoneyBuilder range. By offering "kiddies" building blocks to promote its latest product, MoneyBuilder Growth, Fidelity would seem to be stealing a march on its competitors as the first fund manager to target toddlers. And they do say youngsters are easily persuaded by marketing. The fund is not exactly new: Fidelity has taken an existing unit trust called UK Dividend Growth Fund, Pepped it, reduced the charges

would be five years." Fidelity stresses that its MoneyBuilder range is "no-load". To toddlers who might not understand the jargon, that means no initial charge. It also comes with no exit fee and an annual management fee of 1 per cent. These are attractive rates that have a considerable impact on returns. There are plenty of other no-load funds on the market, but Fidelity offers the widest range without exit charges.

MoneyBuilder Growth is designed for investors who want a small amount of income with capital growth. The minimum investment is £3,000 and there is a monthly savings option above that amount. The investment strategy of Sam Morse, the fund manager, is to pick companies that show a good track record in dividend growth. "To me a company which can consistently increase its dividend year after year is a very attractive proposition. Companies which have achieved this have tended to perform better than those which have not," says Mr Morse.

SARAH JONES

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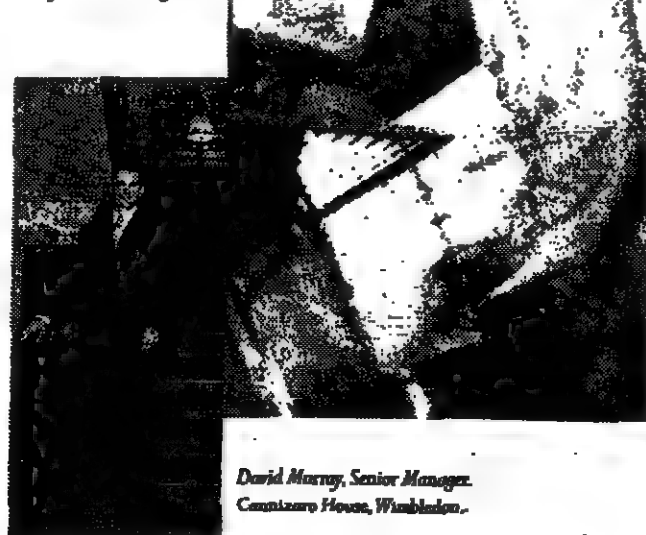
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The older the dearer

In the third part
of a series on
health insurance,
Helen Pridham
considers
age-related costs



Private medical insurance often hits the highest note when the policyholder is over 60

The older you get, the more expensive it is to buy private medical insurance. And while policyholders currently receive basic rate tax relief of 24 per cent on their premiums at the age of 60, this goes only a small way to mitigating the high cost. If Labour forms the next government and proceeds with its proposal to remove tax relief, the problem will get worse.

Many are already finding the cost of existing policies prohibitively high when they reach their 60s and 70s. Stephen Walker of Medical Insurance Services of Brighton, says: "Just when people really start to need their policies, they find they are least able to afford them."

He recommends that buyers should check policies for any age-related increases in premiums, beyond medical inflation rises, to determine what the costs to them will be in later years. George Connelly of Health Care Matters of Dorchester, says: "Historically, medical inflation has been well above normal inflation so it would be wise to assume that such increase will, on average,

be double normal inflation." Age-related premium increases may occur every five or ten years. "It is not unusual for a premium to increase by up to 60 per cent between age 60 and 70," says Mr Connelly.

There are some companies, however, that impose few, if any, age-related increases. OHRA, the Dutch insurer that provides full inpatient and outpatient cover under its policies, falls into this category but does not accept new customers over the age of 60.

Many who have enjoyed private medical insurance through

a company scheme often do not start looking at individual policies until they retire and are already over the age of 60. Mr Connelly recommends that they try their existing company insurer as a first port of call "because that way they may get ongoing cover for existing complaints — but they often find the premiums are astronomical".

Most insurers do accept new members at older ages and the benefits remain much as before, depending on the level of cover chosen, with small modifications to ensure that the policy qualifies for tax relief. This usually involves dropping any cash benefits given if treatment takes place under the NHS as well as any payments towards alternative treatments.

Some policies for the over-60s are more restrictive. Bupa has recently relaunched its Bupa SeniorCare policy. As a cost-control measure, it now offers a much more limited range of hospitals to choose from: down from 800 plus to 170.

One reader, aged 82 and a member of Bupa for the last 30 years, feels pressure is being put on existing policyholders to

change to the new scheme. "It reduces the choice of hospitals in our area from 11 to two and they are both about an hour's drive away, which would make it more difficult for my wife, who is 79, to visit me in hospital and vice-versa," he said.

Peter Fernoy, of Bupa, said senior policyholders were being encouraged to migrate to the new scheme, but it was not compulsory. "If they don't, though, they will miss out on the extra benefits". These include £1,000 of nursing home care.

The Exeter Friendly Society's Preferred scheme is popular among the over-60s, says Mr Walker. "It has no age-related premium increases once you become a policyholder. But there are limits on outpatient benefits."

Another way of keeping premium costs down is to accept an excess — if you are sure you will be able to afford the initial cost of your treatment. Another tip is never to cancel an existing policy until you are covered by an alternative when considering a switch. Existing conditions may not be covered under the new policy.

MONTHLY PREMIUMS FOR STANDARD PRIVATE MEDICAL COVER FOR TREATMENT IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS (all figures in £)			
	Age	Age	Age
	55 (joining)	60	70*
Bupa SeniorCare C	55.22	58.18	72.18
Bupa SeniorCare C	54.68	57.58	71.58
Exeter Friendly Society Preferred	41.98	51.00	58.00
Norwich Union Expresscare 2	58.88	65.88	72.88
OHRA Executive 2000 scale C	53.98	58.11	63.11
PPP Executive level 2	57.88	62.88	67.88
WPA SeniorCare S	49.30	54.30	64.30

*Tax relief deducted where appropriate. You cannot join the scheme at 70.
*New members
Information supplied by Medical Insurance Services (Tel: 0500 454245)

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FIRST PUBLIC OFFER

of units at 50p each closes 1.30 p.m.
Monday 30th September 1996



EUROPEAN SMALLER COMPANIES FUND

The new M&G European Smaller Companies Fund will invest in smaller companies in Europe, with the sole objective of long-term capital growth.

The market for European companies is undergoing rapid change. M&G have deliberately timed the launch of the new European Smaller Companies Fund to capitalise on the high potential rewards from the sector as it enters this exciting new phase.

We believe the new Fund has the key ingredients for success, combining opportunity in a growth sector with M&G's proven track record of stock selection in both European and smaller company markets.

Fund objective
The fund will invest in smaller companies in Europe with the sole objective of capital growth. The manager will generally seek to draw the holdings from a universe of companies which constitute the bottom third in terms of total market capitalisation. There may be some investment in medium and larger capitalised companies which will enhance the liquidity of the fund. Exchange rate fluctuations can affect both income and capital value. The market in securities issued by smaller companies is narrow and investors should expect wider than average price fluctuations.

Applying for units at the launch
The initial offer period will run from 10th September 1996 until 30th September 1996. Applications cannot be accepted before 10th September.

Applications for units at 50p each must be accompanied by a cheque made payable to M&G Securities Limited and must reach M&G not later than 1.30 p.m. on 30th September 1996 when the initial offer closes. The minimum initial investment is £1,000.

We do not issue certificates of title for units but investors will be issued with an acknowledgement on completion of each transaction. This confirms full registration details and the number of units held. Investors should note that units cannot be redeemed until after the initial offer period. This does not affect cancellation rights where applicable.

Laying and selling units after the launch
After the offer period has closed our Customer Services Department in Chelmsford will be open for dealing between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on each business day. If you send dealing instructions to any other M&G office, we do not normally process them until they reach Chelmsford, which may lead to a delay in carrying out your instructions. We usually only calculate prices once

on each business day but we may carry out additional valuations of the funds where we consider it desirable to do so. When buying units, you pay the buying price (i.e. offer price), and when you sell units back to us, you receive the selling price (i.e. the bid price). In each case we send you a contract note showing the price.

We only deal in "forward" prices, that is the price next calculated after we receive your order. If you buy units by post you must send your payment for the purchase of units with your instructions. If you buy units by telephone, you must pay for the purchase no later than five business days after the date of the contract note.

We pay the proceeds of a sale of units not later than four business days after either (i) we receive your instructions or (ii) we receive a correctly completed form of redemption, where required. We do not normally require a form of redemption if all the following points apply:

- the holding is registered in a sole name;
- the sale proceeds are to be made payable to the registered holder at his registered address;
- that address has not changed within the previous 30 days; and
- the total amount payable for all sales made on that day does not exceed £5,000.

We reserve the right to require a form of redemption in any case. We issue a form of redemption, when we require one, with your contract note. Unit prices after 30th September 1996
The prices will be calculated each business day at 1.30 p.m. and the prices are usually available by 4.00 p.m. The Managers have a discretion to carry out additional valuations when they consider it desirable to do so. Prices and yields will appear daily in the Financial

Times. The spread represents the difference (based on the offer price) between the price at which you may buy units and the price at which you may sell units. The price of your units must rise by at least this amount before you cover your dealing costs. The spread includes 0.5% transfer stamp duty when applicable. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

Based on Manager's projected portfolio as at 30th August 1996 the estimated gross distribution yield was 0.85% per annum. It is anticipated that at least a substantial proportion of the distributions made on this new fund will be paid as Foreign Income Dividends (FID).

Since this will be a new unit trust it is not possible to quote either the most recent bid-offer spread, or the maximum permitted spread, but in normal circumstances the spread between the bid and offered prices is likely to be between 5.25% and 5.5% of the offer price though we retain the right to widen the spread or change the pricing basis within the permitted range. We like to base the offer price on the creation price which usually gives sellers a bid price higher than the cancellation price. However, we may widen the range permitted by the relevant statutory regulations.

For large deals (which the Financial Services (Regulated Schemes) Regulations regard as deals in excess of £15,000) we may widen the spread within the permitted limits. Income and Accumulation units
Income and Accumulation units will be issued. Accumulation units provide a facility for the automatic reinvestment of income without having to pay any initial charge on the reinvestment. The reinvestment is included in the price of Accumulation units. The number of Accumulation units does not change. The effect of the reinvestment shows in the relative increase in the price of Accumulation units over income units.

You may convert Accumulation units into income units and vice versa at any time without liability to capital gains tax. We make no charge for this service but we allow only whole numbers of units and retain any fraction of a unit arising from the conversion in the fund for the benefit of all unitholders. Income distributions, whether paid or reinvested, will be treated in an identical manner for tax purposes. We issue only whole numbers of units and will hold any balance money in a client money account and carry it forward to the next income payment date. The Fund will distribute on a half yearly basis, the first ex-dividend date being 19th May 1997 and the first payment date being 10th July 1997. The next ex-dividend and payment dates will be 24th November 1997 and 12th January 1998 respectively.

APPLICATION FORM

The M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Westgate Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB

1. Please use this form if you wish to invest in the fund outside the M&G PEP.

2. If you wish to invest in the fund via The M&G PEP, tick this box ☐ and complete sections 3 and 4 and we will send you a personalised application form.
Alternatively, telephone 0900 900 620 for details.

3. Personal Details
Please complete the full particulars in which units are to be registered (telephone number, 14 years, but not age 18, and if you wish to buy units for children under 18 years of age).

First Holder:
Title: Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms/Other:
Full Forename:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone No. (inc. STD code):
Daytime:
Evening (optional):
AGTQ

Second Holder:
Title: Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms/Other:
Full Forename:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone No. (inc. STD code):
Daytime:
Evening (optional):

4. Investment Details
Please complete below the amount you wish to invest. You will also need to show which unit type you require.

Full name of fund chosen	Payment by instalment (min £2,000)	Unit type required (indicate all appropriate)	Payment method
M&G European Smaller Companies Fund	£ 100	Income/Accumulation	Please indicate your chosen payment for "M&G Securities Limited". If you prefer to receive income distributions, please indicate "I" by tick box <input type="checkbox"/>

5. Declaration
I hereby declare that the above investment specified above. Client applicants should both sign.

Signature 1 _____ Date _____ Signature 2 _____ Date _____

Notes:
1. This form is for clients under 18 years of age should be completed by the parent or guardian. It is not valid if completed by a minor. 2. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 3. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 4. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 5. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 6. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 7. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 8. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 9. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 10. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 11. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 12. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 13. The M&G PEP is a Personal Investment Plan. It is not a contract. 14. 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Why trusts are on song in Europe



European trusts have come under the spotlight in recent weeks. The biggest shock was the news that Morgan Grenfell had suspended trading in its European Growth Trust after trading irregularities. This week, Morgan Grenfell dismissed Peter Young, the fund's manager. Then there was the hostile takeover bid of the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment. *Weekend Money* looks at the prospects for European trusts.

Do the problems at MG mean that European trusts are more risky than those investing elsewhere?

No. The problems could just as easily have arisen in a fund investing in the UK, the US or anywhere else. However, MG's difficulties highlight the fact that European trusts can be a riskier proposition than some of those investing in them may realise. The problem, says Laurence Boyle, director of Williams de Broe, the stockbroker, is that often "you are not comparing apples with apples". Some trusts will be heavily invested in French and German blue chips, others in smaller Scandinavian companies, say. You are unlikely to find any of the former



European hopes: singer Sandie Shaw made her mark for Britain in a competitive continental environment...

at the top of the performance tables, but they may be a far safer bet.

Is Europe a good investment prospect generally?

Yes, with the above caveat and as part of a balanced portfolio. The US market is currently overpriced — "defying gravity", in the words of Keivan Borhani, investment director

at Murray Noble, the financial adviser — and the UK is following in its wake. Europe offers far better value and better growth prospects. Moves towards monetary

union mean currencies are likely to remain relatively stable; and Eastern Europe is providing opportunities that will benefit companies from Community countries.

mend. Alan Emery, director at Berry Birch & Noble, says his firm will not be alone in having reviewed the companies on its approved panel and sought reassurance from some on their financial security.

Unit trust providers admit privately to having reacted to the news about MG with a rapid review of their own funds' volatility and exposure to unlisted stocks.

Mr Borhani adds that if some investors are deterred, this may benefit those who are not. For example, M&G — no relation to Morgan Grenfell — was downplaying its expectations for the launch of its European smaller companies unit trust last week. While a smaller-than-expected number of investors may be bad news for M&G, it may be good news for those who do go in, says Mr Borhani.

There is an argument for saying that the smaller the fund, the better the performance you can expect. "Smaller amounts are easier for a fund manager to buy and sell quickly to take advantage of market changes," he says. "For the investor, it is a very good time to go into European trusts."

According to analysts, among the best buy funds on offer are: Garmore European Select Opportunities; HTR (Henderson Touche Renmant) European Value; Old Mutual European; Schroeder European Smaller Companies; Baring Europe Select; Jupiter European Growth.

How can investors be safeguarded from a repetition of what happened with MG?

The Securities and Investments Board is reviewing the rules on trusts' ownership of unlisted stock. Whatever SIB does, investors and their advisers should ask searching questions about a trust's asset allocation. Some funds already guarantee to hold a minimum proportion of blue chips, and spread the risk by pegging the percentage of the fund put in any one stock. In any event, fund managers are likely to become increasingly sensitive about their exposure to unlisted stocks and reduce it accordingly. The MG situation also highlights the need

to have a strong parent company which, like Deutsche Bank, can step in in the event of difficulties.

Does this mean that now is actually a good time to buy a European trust?

Ironically, yes. Advisers are likely to be more cautious in the providers they recom-

Advisers are fairly unanimous that anyone already invested in the suspended MG fund should stay put, at least for the time being. But given Deutsche Bank's intervention and MG's otherwise

good name, should new investors even consider buying into the fund?

At the moment, advisers are hanging fire on whether to advise new customers to invest in MG's European Growth Trust. Robert Guy, director at John Charcol, says his firm will decide once it has assessed the track record of the new fund manager put in to replace Mr Young. After which, it is quite likely MG will find its way back on to Charcol's "buy" list. He adds that, given all the bad publicity, MG is unlikely to put other than one of its best fund managers at the helm. "If there is one fund Morgan Grenfell will want to see perform well over the next few years, it is this one."

... as did Cliff Richard

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Information is top tip

When it comes to share dealing, it's not what you've got but what you know, says

George Osborne

Investors with share portfolios think money is their most valuable commodity. It is not. Information is the key to investment success. The problem is choosing: there is so much data on companies and share prices that investors risk being swamped.

How do you find the information that will be most useful and how can you employ it?

Starting out

The Stock Exchange publishes four good basic leaflets, *How to Buy and Sell Shares*, *A Glossary of Stockmarket Terms*, *An Introduction to the London Stock Exchange* and *A History of the London Stock Exchange*. Contact the Public Information Line on 0171-797 3300 for free copies.

ProShare, the lobby group for small shareholders, costs £29.95 to join and £34.95 a year in later years for a range of useful services. ProShare is at Library Chambers, 13 & 14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5QB (0171-600 0984).

NatWest has a free booklet, *How to invest in shares* (0800 200 400). A beginner's book can be invaluable. The best include *Investors Chronicle Beginner's Guide to Investment*, by Bernard Gray (Random House, £12.99), *How to Read the Financial Pages*, by Edwin Lefevre (£15.99, paperback) and *Where are the Customers Yachts*, by Fred Schwed (£12.99, paperback).

Choosing a broker

Broking can be found through banks and building societies and over the telephone, as well as in traditional firms. There are three levels of service: □ Execution only: the broker simply carries out instructions



George Soros has explained his investment strategy

without giving advice. This is the cheapest service.

□ Advisory services: There are two types — advice on individual shares and overall portfolio advice. In the first, the broker will advise on whether to buy, sell or hold particular shares. In the second, he will consider the balance of your portfolio, advise on matters such as capital gains tax, and give regular valuations.

□ Discretionary portfolio management: suitable for investors for whom managers set minimum sizes of portfolio, £50,000 or £100,000, say.

ProShare's *Guide to You and Your Stockbroker* is £9.95, plus £1.50 postage. The Association of Private Client Investment Managers & Stockbrokers (112 Middlesex Street, London E1 7HY) offers a free guide to services.

Company information

Financial information about a company is essential for share decisions. Historical information — many investors keep files on companies in which

they are interested — helps to put new figures into context.

The financial pages of your newspaper are a good source of information and comment. *Investors Chronicle* (£2.20 a week) contains comprehensive company coverage.

Most companies supply their annual report free. These give profit information, and statements on recent trading and outlook. Company registrars or share information offices supply copies.

Sharefinder, from ShareLink, the Birmingham broker, gives information on 1,100 companies. Its basic Company Reports service, at £4.95 per company, offers five years of key financial data, the consensus of City research houses, ratings and earnings analysis and forecast comparisons with the sector, company announcements and historical share price graphs. Contact: 0121-200-4600.

The *Hambro Company Guide* (£40) has brief financial details on about 2,000 main market and Alternative Investment Market companies.

It is published by Hemmington Scott (0171-278 7769).

Share prices

Share price information is available in newspapers or on Teletext. These prices are mid prices. You pay a bit more when buying and get a little less when selling.

The *Times* lists share prices of major companies, day's change, price/earnings ratio, yield and year high and low. Ceefax (BBC) and Teletext (Channel 4) give prices for most major companies, updated seven times a day, free of charge.

Telephone share price services have real-time prices, but most impose premium-rate call charges. Sharelink offers a normal-rate telephone share price line covering 2,500 companies. Contact: 0121-200 2242.

Software and the Net

Budget investment software packages are available for under £100. Winstock Software's *Analyst* programme is a good buy at £79.95 plus VAT (contact: 01962 715557).

Start with a simple low-cost package and move up to avoid paying for expensive software you end up not using. Some suppliers let you upgrade by simply paying the difference for the higher-level package.

The Internet has demo versions of investment software and free software known as "shareware". You are supposed to pay a registration fee for an official version of shareware if you find it useful.

Gurus

The strategies of investment gurus such as Warren Buffett and George Soros often sound so easy — until you try them. *Soros on Soros*, by George Soros (£14.99, paperback), and *The Warren Buffet Way*, by Robert G. Hagstrom (£12.99, paperback), are published by John Wiley & Sons.

Gurus apart, take heart from Beardstown Ladies Investment Club, 16 ordinary women in Illinois, who, since 1983, have earned a 23.4 per cent average annual return on shares — more than double the Standard & Poor's 500.

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Angels who fell prey to tax temptations

The Business Expansion Scheme (BES), the public's first foray into venture capitalism, has funded enterprises as diverse as Chinese restaurants, university lodgings and film projects, such as CFC, the special effects company that worked on *Memphis Belle*.

The first BES opportunities came in 1983. Their aim was to encourage wealthy investors to support unquoted trading companies, and so to create employment. Subscribers were given tax relief at their highest rate on investments of up to £60,000. Some have had exceptionally good returns, but others are now sitting on losses.

The annual tax-free return for 1996 will be an average of 17 per cent. By 1998, when the final schemes expire, that average will have fallen to about 13 per cent, reflecting the dip in interest rates towards 1993.

But while the investors in these schemes will walk off happily into the sunset, thousands more would-be business angels are locked in to their ailing unquoted company shares by heavy losses.

This split in investors' fortunes is largely historical. From 1983 to 1988, most schemes involved unquoted trading companies and investors received up-front tax relief on their money at the highest marginal rate of tax. In addition, there was no capital gain on any profit on the redemption of the shares after the five-year qualifying period. But the market exploded in 1988 when the rules were extended to include residential property companies which let out property under an assured tenancy. Non-property BES vanished almost overnight.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, said: "The rule changes were a real shot in the arm to the rental property sector. But they also served to crowd out almost everything else. People asked 'If you can invest in a quasi-guaranteed asset backed company, why bother investing in high-risk unquoted companies such as technology stocks?' Less than 1 per cent did after 1988."

In addition, assured tenancy had given landlords the right to evict non-paying tenants, thereby guaranteeing a steady flow of rental income. "It provided an opportunity to invest into what effectively was a residential property giving you a fair



The cast of *Memphis Belle* was helped by BES funding

market return, of say, 10 per cent per annum. Coupled with generous tax relief and asset backing, the investments proved irresistible," said Mr Fitzpatrick. BES Investment, the stockbroker and market researcher, calculates that between August 1988 and December 1993, when the schemes were abolished, more than £3 billion poured into residential property companies. An estimated £2.4 billion of that went into some form of guaranteed scheme. Most of those mature over the next three years.

Investors who opted for the guaranteed, or contracted exit, schemes have fared the best. The return on their investment was guaranteed at the outset by one of two methods. Either the company set the price of the repayment to shareholders at the inception of the scheme by banking the cash on a fixed-term deposit, which it cashed in when the scheme matured. Or, investors were given a loan

back immediately after they had paid for the shares, so that the company effectively bought out its investors, who in turn benefited from tax breaks. Most of this was made possible by the artificial nature of the schemes, whereby the property was pre-sold at a fixed price, for example to universities for student housing.

For those who placed their cash with non-guaranteed schemes, the picture has been bleaker. More than £600 million was raised by entrepreneurial property schemes, and many investors are now trapped into BES shareholdings whose value fell with the collapse of the property market. According to BES Investment, returns, where good, have often done only marginally better than bank deposit interest.

David Cartwright, venture capital partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, said:

"You either took out a guaranteed scheme or you went for a non-guaranteed high-risk, high-reward strategy. Some companies aspired to allow inflation to take care of property values and, with hindsight, were inevitably caught out."

Ironically, the problem for those who have lost money because of the fall in the value of their shares is compounded by the generous tax regime surrounding the scheme. On the upside, investors usually end up paying only 60p in the pound for their shares because of the 40 per cent tax relief on entry for higher-rate taxpayers and they also pay no tax on the gain falling out at maturity. On the downside they get no tax relief for capital losses: if the share value disappears, your money goes too. Like the many thousands of private householders caught in the negative equity trap, loss-making BES investors are putting their hopes on a revival in the residential property market.

Alistair Altham, Johnson Fry's marketing director, said: "It appears the vast majority of the directors in these companies have taken a pragmatic view of the market and held on to their investments. Where they have decided to hold on for a while, they have often done so by taking steps to reduce the overhead costs of running the company to improve shareholder returns."

Not everyone is satisfied that the reason behind the downturn in such property values lies solely with the economy. Peter Du Boff, a private-client adviser, said: "Some directors of BES companies clearly invested fairly badly in the first place. Some invested too quickly because of the need to invest within the Inland Revenue's two-year deadline to qualify for the tax relief."

Tim Villiers of EIBESA, the industry trade body, says investors should not sit idle if they believe that the company is being mismanaged. "There is no doubt that the more active an interest these BES investors take in the management of the company, the better the chance they have of getting a return on their investment," he said. "They have the same rights as other shareholders and may attend annual meetings, ask questions and vote."

The BES teaches valuable lessons. Mr Cartwright said: "Some people have been surprised that returns have not been as good as expected, but that is often what happens where high tax reliefs are offered up-front. It is a warning to venture capital markets that if a scheme is to be successful people will not go into it without high tax incentives. Yet investors should realise that putting money into unquoted companies is inevitably risky." BES proves the old adage that you should never invest simply for tax reasons.

ARTHUR PIPER

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Homes for Tenants, 11-12	December 1988	n/a	118p	n/a
Twined Premier, 1-6	December 1988	122p	n/a	n/a
Lutondown Properties, 1-2	June 1987	115p	n/a	n/a
Lutondown Properties, 3-12	October 1987	120p	n/a	n/a
Executive Estates, 1-6	March 1988	108p	n/a	n/a
Principal Portfolios, 1-4	March 1988	105p	n/a	n/a
Shannon Residential, 1-6	February 1988	107p	n/a	n/a

* The relief has not been taken into account. A typical higher rate taxpayer would have paid only 60p per pound invested because of tax relief. Most investors will have left the schemes this year but the schemes will continue to mature. Source: Johnson Fry

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Smith, Susan, Thomson, Jane, Gregory and John McElmenna.

Household budgets turn automatic for the people

Personal finance for some people means throwing receipts and bank statements into a box and praying their account is not overdrawn. But for an increasing number of computer-literate folk, specialist software is keeping the bank at bay and helping them to get to grips with such time-consuming issues as pensions and tax self-assessment.

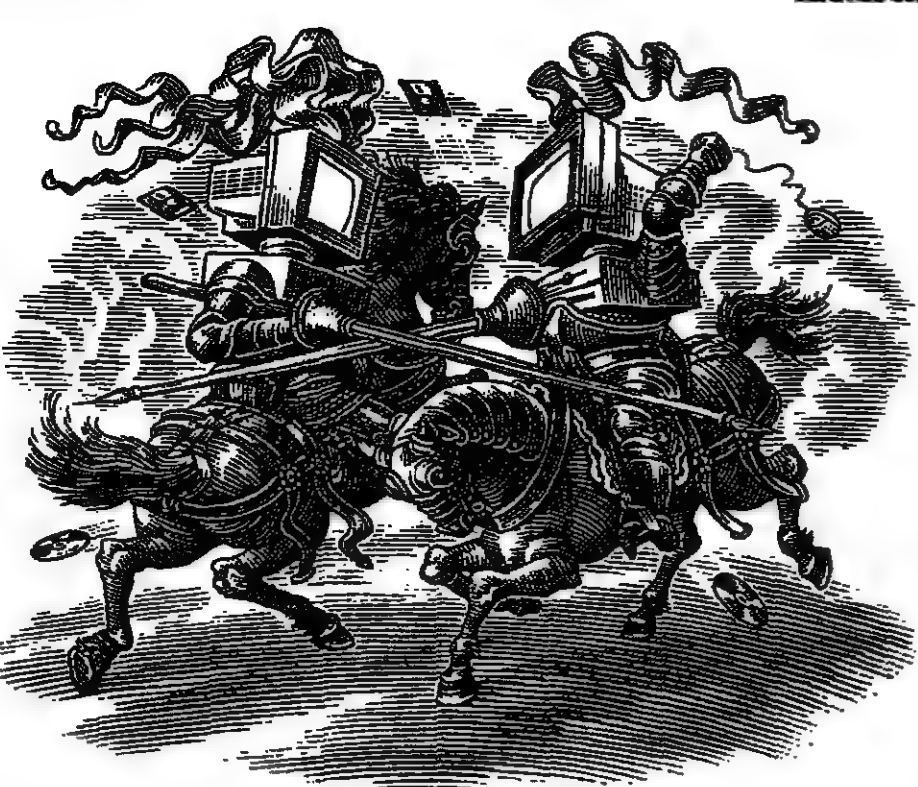
According to personal finance software companies, more than 1.1 million UK households have bought personal finance packages — more than have cable television. Some buyers will have tried the packages and reverted to paper. But others swear by products such as Microsoft Money, Intuit Quicken and Sage Instant Accounts, the three market leaders.

The typical personal finance software package helps people to budget and control family finances, automating just about everything you have about financial management and even flashing reminders each time a bill needs to be paid, if a program is so set.

Small business owners and home workers who often find paperwork a burden can track VAT and foreign currency spending, print their own cheques from the packages and have the amount automatically recorded in the section for account details.

"What if's" are also catered for. For example, an increase in school fees can be entered in, alerting the user that there will not be enough money available by the end of a given period to meet other bills.

In order to get started, a user will need at the very least a Windows personal computer or a Macintosh computer with at least eight megabytes of Ram (random access memory) and a personal finance pro-



Rival computer groups are battling for a share of the personal finance software market

gram, the cost of which starts at about £30.

The software needs to be loaded on to the computer. Initially, the program takes the user through a series of basic questions about earnings and expenditure. It then automatically collates the figures, and files them away in categories ready to be used or added to later.

By next year, users will also be able to use the software to dial into their banks from home 24 hours a day, check their balances and pay bills electronically in a computerised version of telephone banking. Microsoft says that its next version of Money, due

out this year, will be "online banking ready".

In the United States, Intuit and Microsoft are locked in a battle to do deals with banks in which Quicken or Money is used on home computers allowing users 24-hour access to their banks. In the UK, many of the high street banks are testing PC home banking. Barclays is test running software that it wrote itself, though others will use Microsoft or Intuit products because so many customers already own that software.

Personal finance packages are not all good news. To be successful, a user must have enough self-motivation to en-

ter financial information in the program. Users have been critical of both Microsoft Money and Intuit Quicken in particular for failing to provide more than "overgrown leaflets" as instruction manuals. To get help, they must use computerised manuals, which some find less "user-friendly" than paper.

In future, leading packages are expected to come to terms with the Inland Revenue's new self-assessment, the biggest change to the tax system in 50 years. Soon, users will be able at the push of a button to assemble the figures needed by the taxman.

The Sage Instant Accounting package, for example, is expected to be modified next year to help with self-assessment. Both Intuit Quicken and Microsoft Money include categories for tax-related entries.

For home users, either Quicken or Money will fulfil most needs. Small businesses would be advised to look at Sage Instant Accounting. It is worth noting, however, that where one program boldly goes, the competition will follow and those who wire up their finances are likely to find all of the leading packages up to the job.

DIANA MILLER

Kevin Hayward, a Warwickshire postman and father of two, bought his first computerised personal finance package three years ago. He had read about Intuit's Quicken in a computer magazine and thought it might help to plan a tight budget. "With Quicken I'm in control of all my finances and I no longer get letters from my bank telling me I'm overdrawn," he said. "It acts as a diary, reminding me when payments are due and because it adds and subtracts all my incomings and outgoings it means that I don't make any mistakes anymore." He uses the software to track his mortgage, standing orders, direct debits and annual payments such as insurance and MOT and recently found the package useful when a computer magazine sent him a renewal subscription bill. "I did a search and found it wasn't due until January. Otherwise, I would have paid five months before it was due." Mr Hayward also uses the program's "what if" facility, which forecasts which months he will need to work overtime to make ends meet. Mr Hayward convinced Philippa Reeve, his partner, to put her finances on the computer as well and the couple now set each other's reminders.

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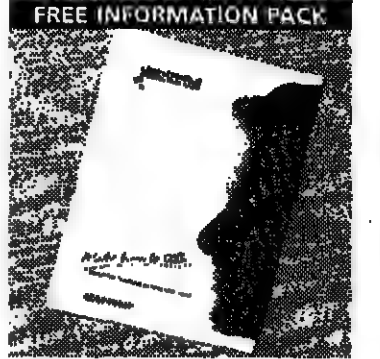
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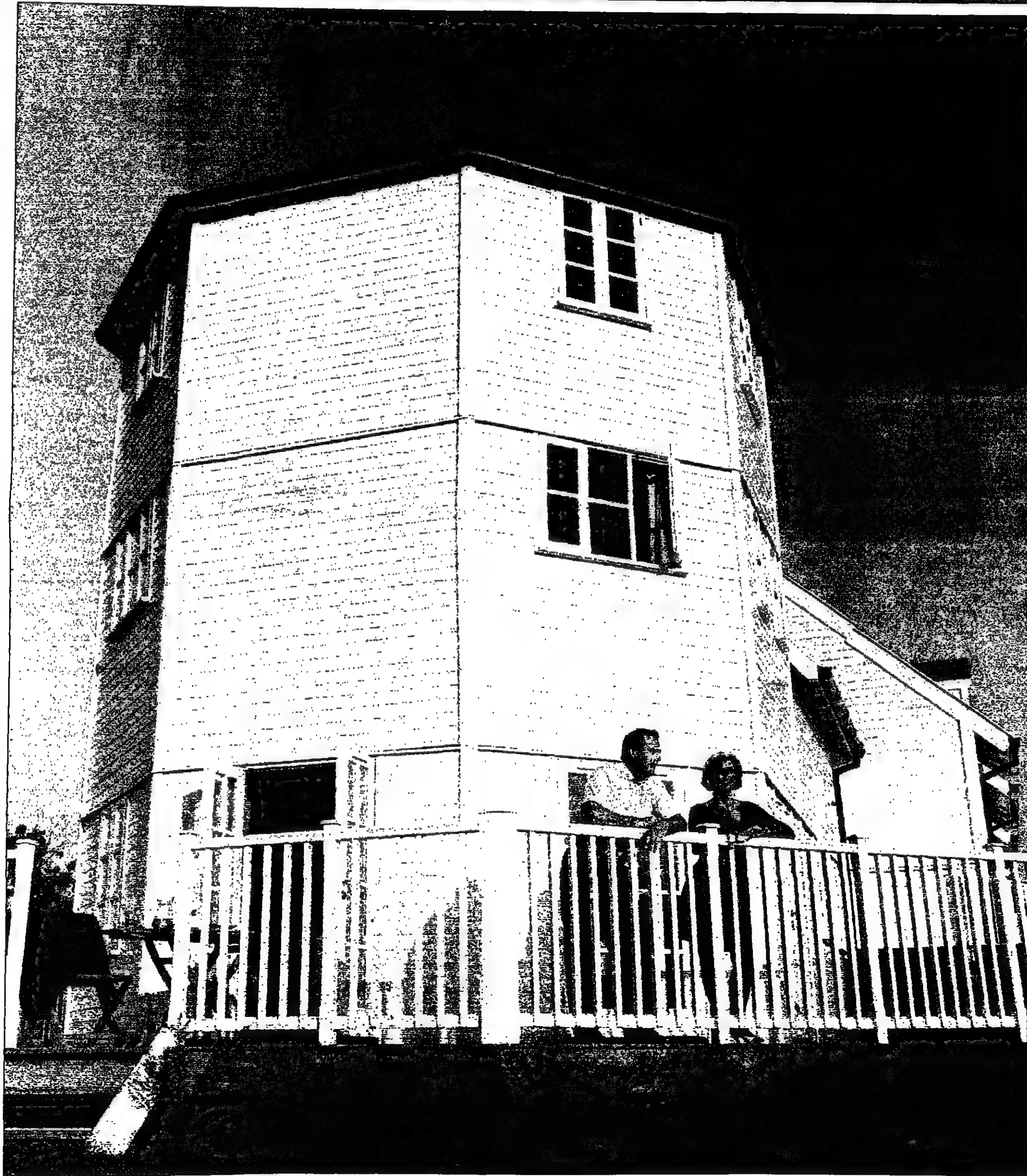
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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

WE'RE ALL SECOND-HOME OWNERS HERE



People who want to relax at the weekend now buy their country cottages brand new.

Peter Barnard reports

If watching the grass grow is about as much stress as you can handle at the weekend, there are places in the countryside where the pace of growth is even more relaxed than elsewhere. Developers who have set the latest trend in second homes have thought of everything. Yes, they even plant slow-growing grass. This keeps the lawn mower in the garden shed rather than racing along before some puffing executive who thought this was a weekend off. And the evidence is that the policy works, for slow-growing grass has become the curious emblem of a significant switch in the provision of second homes.

A cottage in the country used to mean just that: roses round the door, mice in the attic, leaks in the roof, dust, dirt, rot. People would return to the city on Sunday night with blistered hands and paint-streaked hair. They rushed back to the office on Monday morning to put their feet up. All that is changing. There is still demand for country cottages, but now the smart money is going into new ones.

However, there are two distinct trends within this new market, which can be defined as lifestyle homes and new-old homes.

People may not want to paint walls and scrub floors at the weekend, but many do want plenty of activity without the hassle of driving from place to place. Therefore developments, often built around lakes reclaimed from gravel pits, offer boating, fishing and other activities.

Isis Lakes, a Watermark development at South Cerney, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, has most of the elements necessary for the trouble-free designer weekend. The homes are marketed as lodges. They do not pretend to be permanent homes and, indeed, planning regulations prevent their use in that way, but a second home can be used all-year as long as the owner has another, principal address.

"Turn left at the end of this road and keep an eye out for something that looks Dutch," a woman in South Cerney told me. From that description, there was no mistaking Isis Lakes, as the photograph here demonstrates: these are windmills minus the blades.

The other trend, for new-old homes, is very British: it serves our propensity for looking back in wonder. Millions of people with no real interest in classical music gather for the *Last Night of the Proms*, with its evocation of former glories. We buy new wood and painstakingly varnish it, the fastest route to a weathered appearance. This love of tradition seems to mean that we are suckers for the notion of a new house which arrives complete with its own history: age, literally, built in.

To explain how this oddity works we must consider that staple of building down the years, the humble brick. The thing about a new brick is that it is three inches in depth. But at Carter's Leaze, in Great Wolford, Warwickshire, where the houses are mostly built of newly quarried Cotswold stone, there are some most interesting garages, if you will accept for a moment that a garage can be most interesting.

These garages were constructed from bricks two and a half inches deep, reclaimed by Ivor Johnson and his brother Martin, the site's developers and builders. A two-and-a-half-inch brick is a pleasing sight: it looks old. These bricks used to be a warehouse near Manchester. It was demolished and Ivor bought the bricks, so that a victim of

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FOOD

3

Spelt flour produces better bread than ordinary wheat flour. It's high in protein, delicious and just like the Romans used to make

Old farming instincts die hard, and so when I read about a cereal crop far more interesting than the dreary winter wheat which grows round here, which thrives on less fertile soils and needs less manufactured fertiliser, and moreover is ideal for organic growing because of its habit of sprouting tall and suppressing weeds, I start to get wistful.

It gets better. When milled and made into flour this crop produces bread which is higher in protein than a similar loaf baked with common wheat flour, and with higher concentrations of vitamins and minerals. It is called spelt, and although like all bread a spelt loaf contains gluten, growers say there is reason to believe it can be eaten by people who are normally gluten intolerant.

Once again, a possible solution to the problem of feeding ourselves while at the same time nurturing our land has turned up: not by looking forward to a technological future, but backwards to our forefathers. In the case of spelt, to the Romans. In my farming days, this would have had me dusting off the seed

The cereal outstanding in its field

drill, harnessing the horses and trudging to the fields. Now, I let Doves Farm Foods do all the work.

Their bags of spelt flour look just like wholemeal: you can substitute spelt for wholemeal flour in any recipe if you want the nutty flavour and texture of which they boast. I was beguiled by the idea of this ancient flour, beloved of the Romans, writers of the Old Testament and, as late as the 19th century, the Germans. And, indeed, I found the recipe for Roman Army Bread irresistible. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears of spelt and I will bake you a delicious loaf on which we can march.

I took a pound of spelt flour and added a teaspoon of salt and three tablespoons of olive oil. I mixed two teaspoons of active dried yeast (not very Roman, but handy) into warm water to which I had added a hefty spoonful of honey, and allowed it to froth. Then I mixed the lot

together and produced a pleasant, slithery, pliable dough. I greased a large baking tray, put the dough on it, sprinkled it with more spelt flour, and put it away for half an hour to rise.

While waiting, it crossed my mind that when in Rome one should eat as the Romans, which sent me to my references. Here I discovered recipes more horrible than any on which I have ever set my eyes. I came, I saw, but not even my hardened stomach could conquer these. Where can I start? Perhaps with the stuffed dormice.

"Take two plump dormice for each guest, and put and clean." (It does not say how you do this with a crocheting hook.) "Make a stiff stuffing of minced pork and

HOME MADE



Paul Heiney

the minced meat of other dormice. Pound this with pepper and pine kernels. When stuffed, sew up the mice, place in a shallow pan and cook in a slow oven." I have this image in my twisted mind of the neat and tidy Mary Berry showing us how to do it on one of her mid-morning television demonstrations: "Now just slice off those tails and pop them in the Aga to crisp."

Ugh. While we are on matters Roman, and waiting for the bread to rise, do you want to hear about the boiled parrot? Why not? Once faced, you need never fear it again.

"Pluck, wash, truss and draw your parrot." (Who's not such a pretty boy now?) Place in a pan and well cover with

water to which may be added vinegar and a little dill. While the parrot is cooking, put pepper, caraway seed, coriander, rue and mint in a mortar and pound to a paste. Moisten with vinegar. Add daves well shredded. Remove the parrot from the pan and use some of the water in which it has boiled to thin the sauce. Thicken with cornflour.

To those of you wondering about the versatility of this recipe, let me tell you that "the same recipe can be used for flamingo". I am now of the firm belief that the letters SPQR carried on banners by Roman soldiers were an early form of fast-food sponsorship: Savoury Parrot Quik-Roast.

My spelt loaf rose as well as any loaf I have ever made. No time in the Roman Army for a second kneading and rising: they had the Alps to cross. So I put it in the oven for about 35 minutes, using the

hem of my toga to prevent my fingers burning on the hot oven door.

The result was a truly new taste: nutty as promised, satisfying but not too heavy, wonderful with honey: and as foretold on the packet, a spelt loaf leaves no crumbs when cut. It was moist, lighter than a normal wholemeal loaf and achieved without any of that heavy kneading or knocking back and waiting ages for the second rising. I could possibly have made it even lighter: on reading the instructions again I suspect I may not have added enough water. The dough is supposed to fall onto the baking sheet like a flatish ciabatta. Mine looked like a cottage loaf.

But I liked it, and it was a really new taste in bread. It was just as good the next day too. I shall try it again. Spelt flour is available in most health food shops, by mail order from Doves Farm Foods, and from selected branches of Sainsbury's, where I shall take great pleasure at the butchery counter asking for Parrot-burgers and Oven-Ready Dormice.

● Doves Farm Foods, Salisbury Road, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0RF (01488 684880).

FAST FOOD

How to be a pasta master in a hurry

NO-COOK DINNER

Serves six

Parma ham, mozzarella and red-leaf salad
Tagliatelle with creamy pesto
Boozy blackberry fool

This dinner is great for a day when you have to shop in your lunch hour or on the way home and get back just 15-30 minutes before your guests are due to arrive. The only cooking required is boiling the pasta to go with a sauce made by mixing ready-made pesto, crème fraîche and the basic ingredients of pesto — basil, pinenuts and parmesan.

■ **Make blackberry fool**
Mix 600g (1lb 5oz) blackberries (keep a handful for decoration), 400g (14oz) ready-made custard, 4tbs caster sugar and 1tbs port in a food processor. Taste and add more sugar if you want, as blackberries vary in sweetness. Put in 6 bowls or a serving bowl and decorate with whole berries.

■ **Make parma ham and mozzarella salad**
Put 250g (9oz) prepared salad, preferably one with some red leaves such as radicchio and oak leaf lettuce, around the outside of a large serving plate. Put 12 slices (about 140g/5oz) of parma ham in the middle and arrange 250g (9oz) mozzarella, cut into 12 slices,

in the centre. Make a dressing of 3tsp grainy mustard, a squeeze of lemon and 6tbs olive oil and put to one side.

■ **Make tomato salad**
Slice three huge tomatoes. Put in a shallow serving dish and sprinkle with 1tsp sugar, 2tsp balsamic or other mild vinegar and some black pepper.

■ **Serve parma ham and mozzarella salad**
Five minutes before serving the salad, put a large pan of salted water on to boil. Drizzle the dressing over salad but do not mix. Let the guests help themselves and as they do, put 500g (1lb 2oz) green and yellow tagliatelle in the water to cook for around ten minutes.

■ **Serve pasta**
Drain the pasta and put back in the pan. Mix with 400ml crème fraîche and 3tsp pesto, so the cream melts on the pasta. Divide among 6 plates and scatter over 100g (4oz) pinenuts and 12 roughly torn basil leaves. Using a potato peeler, pare shavings off a piece of parmesan to decorate. You can also serve this in one large bowl for guests to help themselves. Serve with the tomato salad.

■ **Serve blackberry fool**
Serve with shortbread.

HATTIE ELLIS



Shopping List

Fruit and vegetables
600g (1lb 5oz) blackberries
250g (9oz) prepared salad
squeeze of lemon
3 very large tomatoes
12 basil leaves

Meat
12 slices parma ham
(about 140g/5oz)

Dairy
400g (14oz) ready-made custard
250g (9oz) mozzarella
400ml crème fraîche
small piece parmesan

Store cupboard
4tbs plus another 2tsp
caster sugar
3tsp grainy mustard
6tbs olive oil
2tsp balsamic vinegar
500g (1lb 2oz) green and yellow tagliatelle
6tsp pesto
100g (4oz) pinenuts
1 packet shortbread

Drink
1tbs port
a selection of good
red and white Italian
wines

CHOCOLATE truffles are rich, intoxicating little fancies, and so named because when dusted in cocoa powder they resemble those rare little gems of fungus and are similarly precious to all lovers of good food. Once you have mastered this simple recipe, which makes about 85, and perhaps used cocoa powder to finish them off, you might feel brave enough to have a go at dipping in couverture.

1lb best bitter plain chocolate (such as Menier)
1/2 pint whipping cream
3tsp rum or brandy
cocoa for rolling

Break the chocolate into tiny pieces. In a saucepan, bring the cream to a rolling boil and add the chocolate, immediately turning down the flame to a low heat and stirring until all

CHOCOLATE BOX

the chocolate is melted. Take off the heat and transfer to a large mixing bowl. Leave to cool at room temperature which will take at least one to one and a half hours.

There are two ways of continuing: (a) Use an electric hand whisk (you can use a balloon whisk but you need muscles of iron) to whisk the mixture to the consistency of a whipped cream — no more or it becomes unmanageable and sets before you have a chance to continue. It is better to stop whisking when it is still soft as it soon sets.

Spoon the mixture into a 14in piping bag with a 1/2in nozzle and pipe 1/2in truffle spheres onto a baking sheet covered in cling film, or waxed paper. Refrigerate for an hour. (This is my favourite method and I think by far the best.) (b) When the mixture has set, use a

teaspoon to spoon-out bite-size portions, rolling them into balls in the palms of your hands, dusted with icing sugar to prevent sticking. This takes longer than process (a) but is just as good.

AT THIS stage, you can coat them in chocolate — but do this only after practice beforehand — or you can roll the truffles in cocoa powder, icing sugar, chopped nuts or chocolate 'vermicelli'. They will keep for at least a week. If at the last minute they need tarting up, sprinkle them with cocoa powder from a tea strainer. The glory of using the best possible chocolate is that, whatever the truffles look like, they will taste wonderful. If you have any problems write to me care of Weekend at The Times.

SARA JAYNE

● The author is one of Britain's leading chocolate cooks.

Cook your goose

ALTHOUGH goose is indelibly linked in the public mind with Christmas, it is actually more traditional to serve it at the feast of Michaelmas, which takes place next Sunday, September 29 (or, if you live in Norfolk, on October 11 — they refused to alter the date when the calendar changed).

The story goes that Queen Elizabeth I was feasting on goose when she heard the news of Drake's victory against the Armada and was so overcome with emotion that she decreed (as Queens do) that roast goose should henceforth be eaten on that day. A rather less colourful explanation was that Michaelmas was one of the traditional quarter days when crafty and impoverished peasants would take their rapacious landlord a

DIGEST



Fiona Beckett

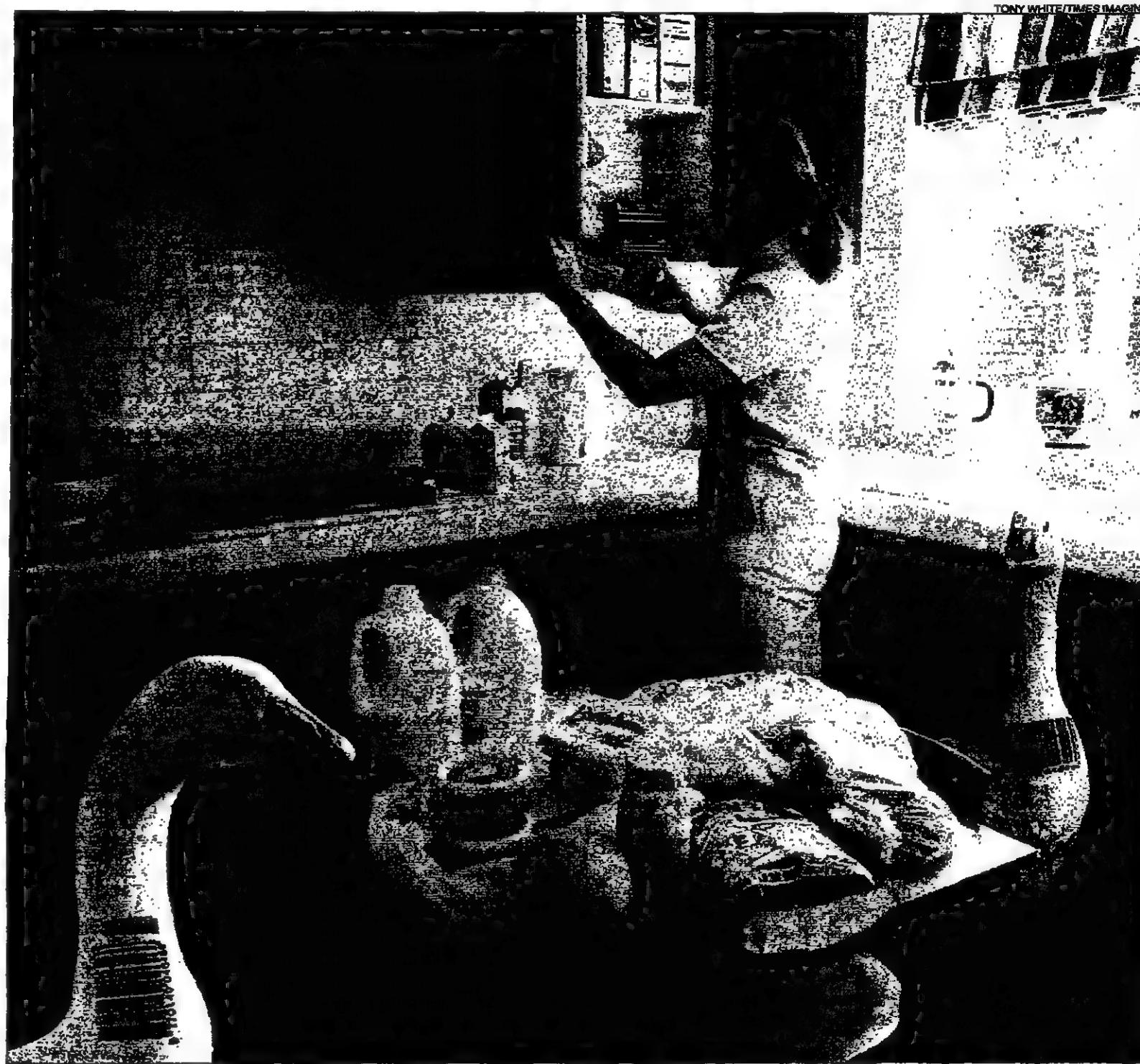
goose in the hope that he wouldn't put up the rent.

The advantage of eating goose at this time of year is that it is svelter than at Christmas, not yet having acquired the extra layers of fat it needs to protect it from the cold. Judy Goodman of Goodman's Geese says it is milder and less rich than at Christmas. "It's lovely to eat it with the new crop of apples which are at their freshest and crispest." Also good is the Irish potato and apple stuffing, which basically involves adding 2lb of mashed potato to a pound each of stewed apples and onions. You can find the full recipe in *Dorina Allen's excellent Irish Traditional Cooking*, which is published by Kyle Cathie at £19.99.

A goose is also cheaper now than at Christmas because the producer does not have to feed it for another three months. Judy Goodman charges £5.70 per kilo (£2.59 a lb for the non-metricated) compared with £6.24 (£2.84) in December — the average weight at this time of year being about 4.5kg (10-11lb). If you're in Malvern this weekend you can buy one from her at the Malvern Autumn Show, otherwise ring her on 01299 896272 or her sister, Ann Botterill, who also rears geese, on 01476 870394. For other producers contact the British Goose Producers Association on 0171-240 9889.

Best bread

"DEVON" and "focaccia" are not words you normally associate with each other but I recently tasted the best focaccia I've eaten outside



A goose, traditional fare at Michaelmas, is cheaper and less fatty than at Christmas. It's wonderful served with Irish potato and apple stuffing

Italy from the Crosse Farm Bakery near Cheriton Bishop, Devon (01647 24442). Unlike most supermarket focaccia, which has the taste and texture of cotton wool, it is light and flavoursome and stuffed with rosemary, sun-dried tomatoes, olives and sunflower and pumpkin seeds.

Before you say it's all very well for the residents of Cheriton Bishop, the good news is that the baker, Harriet Helliwell, does mail order (the minimum is eight 800g loaves, which cost £24 plus £8 p&p). Even better news is that she will make extra large ones to order for parties. Either way you can freeze them.

Book early

INCIDENTALLY if you have ambitions to knock up a focaccia yourself you can find a smashing recipe in *One Year at Books for Cooks No 2*, the latest anthology from Books for Cooks, the west London cookery bookshop. Basically, it is a sample of the books the staff have liked best, tried and tested in the kitchen at the back of the shop.

Other exotic and enticing recipes include tomato and sweet pepper marmalade tart, lamb loin with roast beetroot and radish tatziki, and white chocolate Sauternes cake, for which recipe alone I would pay the £3.99 which they charge for the whole volume. Ring them on 0171-221 1992.

As nice as pie

AT Marks & Sparks there are signs of a backlash against the tidal wave of lime and coriander that swamped the shelves this summer. One of the best-selling new lines this autumn is a roast pork pie in gravy, which could have hailed from a 1950s tearoom.

In fact it was a happy accident. Because the pie department has been frantically seeking alternatives to beef, they have been encouraging staff to come up with old regional recipes. The roast pork pie was one. Another, suggested by the staff at the Newcastle store, which apparently sells more pies than any other M&S in the country, is cheese and onion pie squares.

Further nursery-style favourites will follow. In the next few weeks you'll be able to buy lamb and pea mash pie, chicken and vegetable-filled Yorkshire pudding pies and an M&S invention which they are very excited about — the crisp-crust pudding.

Curry trip

LEICESTER might not immediately strike you as the obvious venue for a gastro-nomic weekend but if you're a curry lover you need look no further. The local tourist board (slogan: "Leicester — a city full of surprises") has come up with the rather smart idea of taking advantage of the city's large Asian population by instituting an Asian Cuisine Weekender Break starting from £122.50 (depending on which hotel you choose). For this you get dinner at

restaurants — one Gujarati (vegetarian meal), one Punjabi, the chance to talk about the dishes and look behind the scenes, a visit to the Asian shopping district and a one-day cookery course at the Asian cookery school. The first weekend will be from October 18-20 with others in November, January and February. Ring Leicester Promotions (0116 285 6734) for details.

If you are in Leicester try to fit in a trip to the local market, which I remember from researching street markets a couple of years ago as one of the best in the country. Don't miss the fish stall run by John Heath, a former policeman, whatever you do.

Pep talk

HOT NEWS in *The Grocer* of an exciting addition to the Peperami market (Peperami, for the uninitiated among you, being a snack sausage you chew like gum). The turkey-flavoured Peperami "Gobbler" is "shorter and thicker (than, presumably, the original) and is pitched at white meat-eaters and women". TV ads, starting in October, feature the slogan: "It's a bit of all right." Actually I think I might just manage to resist it.

● Last week I misled you about that naughty-but-nice Dulce de Leche caramel spread. It contains a modest 1.386 calories a jar, not the wildly reckless 5,800 calories I had wrongly calculated.

More food and drink in the Magazine

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GARDENING

Something to crow about

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q My 20-year-old Victoria plum tree is cropping well but the leaves on some branches have become brown-spotted and holed. I have been picking off and burning the affected leaves. Can you tell me what this is? — C. Plumb, Sheffield.

A This sounds like shot-hole disease, which attacks plums, peaches and cherries. The patches develop into holes. The problem is not serious, and is usually seen on weak trees. Feed your tree next spring by making crowbar holes 9in deep, 1ft apart around the root system perimeter and filling them with Growmore. Mulch it, too.

Q I have an old, fertile mulberry tree almost 30ft high. A few years ago I felled a cherry which was shading it on one side, since when it has sprouted a dense growth of shoots from the main trunk, which is now hidden during summer. I want to remove these shoots to reveal the bark, but is this wise? — T. Allen, Carlisle.

A The shoots sprouting from the trunk may be the result of increased light or of incipient senility of the whole structure. You can cut them off, saving the odd one to fill gaps in the canopy where the cherry tree had shaded it. But at 30ft your mulberry is too tall and too old. Think about reducing it if you want it to be a rugged specimen in 30 years.

Q Nine months ago I moved into a house with a neglected garden with 12ft-high walls. The garden is infested with

slugs and snails, which I catch and throw over the walls. Do these pests have a homing instinct and climb back over? There are just as many now as when I started. — Mrs P. Goodard, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A Who lives next door, I wonder? Do they throw them back? Slugs and snails are efficient reproducers. They are also capable of slithering back over the wall, but not from a homing instinct. It takes time to reduce slug and snail populations. When it happens it will be the result of cultivation and hygiene not enforced aeronautics.

Q In June I sowed a packet of winter-flowering pansies. They were planted out in July, since when they have bloomed prolifically. I am concerned that they will fail to flower in late winter/early spring as they should. Should I shear the heads off? — J. Smith, York.

A Winter pansies are bred to keep flowering at low temperatures so there is no need to worry. Keep up some dead-heading to divert their energy from seed production, and go over them at the end of the autumn flowering.

Q Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.



These scarecrows are almost lifesize and wear dungarees and T-shirt (summer) or jacket (winter). They include fabric birds and cost £85 each from Scarcity of Scarecrows

Beatrice Potter's scarecrow in *Peter Rabbit*, clothed in the rabbit's finest blue jacket and with his polished shoes dangling from its stick arms, served as a handy resting place for birds between feasts on Mr McGregor's vegetable garden. It is a vision of bitter truth to many who have tried using a scarecrow to deter birds and one that strikes gloom into the heart of most gardeners.

Shooting is out of the question, however murderous you feel when a pigeon smacks its beak over your newly-sown seeds or plump blackcurrants, and the loud cannon-style bird scarers used by farmers are expensive and unlikely to endear you to the neighbours.

Denys and Marjorie Randolph have had many of these problems at their 14-acre vineyard in Oxfordshire, where they grow grapes for Down's Edge wine. Shooting is allowed in parts of the vineyard away from the road, but what was meant to be a quiet retirement project has turned into a battle of ingenuity against pigeons and starlings which would have munched through nearly £1,000 worth of grape if not for the Randolphs' bird-scaring methods. They started with scarecrows: not

Birds are not always welcome visitors to the garden. Jane Owen looks at a variety of devices that will scare the scavengers away

any old scarecrows but lifesize plywood cut-outs of gunmen, butts at the shoulder and a length of pipe for the barrel, should the birds be in any doubt. Mr Randolph cut out the models and his wife painted them in country clothes.

After a few days the birds perched happily along the gun barrel and passing bus passengers called the police to complain that the Randolphs were shooting in areas likely to be dangerous to the public.

Then Garfield-style balloons — black balloons, painted with a cat's face — were filled with helium and tied at the end of each row of vines. Mrs Randolph says these balloons were effective but burst so often that it took much time and money to constantly refill them.

Desperation began to set in. The Randolphs cut out a tiger shape from an 8ft by 4ft piece of plywood and painted it to glow brightly — fearfully even — in the middle of the vineyard. The birds treated it like an ornament. Meanwhile, Dave Keir, who helps Mr Randolph on the vineyard, was



Scarey-Boy deflates noisily

on shooting duty at a nearby farm when something leapt at him, and narrowly missed being shot. It was a Scarey-Boy and it scared the birds as well as the gunman.

Scarey-Boy is a mass of limp plastic which inflates every few minutes to 3ft 6in, arms outstretched, making a screaming noise. Then it deflates, noisily and lies doggo until

the next blast of air from its battery-powered motor. It is ingenious but expensive — prices are from £235 for the Boy version to £375 for a larger model (5ft 6in) called Scarey-Man Fall-Guy; plus £30 for the rechargeable battery. Mr Randolph is hoping to get one this Christmas to use next year. Meanwhile, he has worked up such a convincing impression of Scarey-Boy that he might find himself fulfilling the function personally until harvest time.

As a less dramatic level, humming tape is usually effective and a lot cheaper at about £4 for 30m (100ft) from garden centres. The green plastic tape, about half a centimetre wide, is tied washing-line style between poles over kitchen gardens where the crops run in rows. Even a breeze makes the tape vibrate and create curious Aeolian harp-style music, which drifts across the garden and alarms birds.

Netting is another possibility for small areas and it comes in pre-cut sizes from most garden centres; for example, 10m by 4m (32ft by 13ft)

costs £14. Cats keep birds away, too, and a small bell attached to their collar warns feeding birds of their arrival and protects the birds from being killed.

Or you could try homemade scarecrows, flashing their no-go message to the hungry birds, such as gaily coloured foil rectangles or milk bottle tops attached to string and tied to the top of poles.

Those whose gardens are populated by birds made nervous by scarecrows can add this year's most voguish ornament to their gardens: a ready-made scarecrow with a choice of clothes. Made by a company called Scarcity of Scarecrows, they cost £85. The smiling manikin, nearly lifesize and with fashionably cropped straw hair, can model either a summer T-shirt and dungarees or, for winter, a jacket and dungarees.

● Scarey-Boy and Scarey-Man by mail order from Clarmis, Toland Hall, Toland, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 4RU (01480 880242).

● Scarcity of Scarecrows, Oakland Cottage, Greenway Lane, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 6LA (01242 23071).

● For visits to the Randolphs' vineyard call 01491 84802. The grapes from the vineyard are used to make Down's Edge wine, £5 from Fullers.

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Water lovers prove a moveable feast of colour

Stephen Anderton solves the problem of when to lift and when to leave cannas

Where should you grow cannas? There are options. Picture hot, city squares in middle Germany and civic planters brimming with red cannas, all flapping purple foliage and scarlet flowers, like a cross between a banana and a gladiolus. Then picture the greeny-grey leaved, yellow-flowered *Canna glauca* growing in the water of a Sussex pond.

I am tempted to write that it is only *C. glauca* which should be grown in water, and then I hear of people growing a variegated, ordinary hybrid canna in water, and of a gardener in Exeter, Devon, who grows the ordinary, bronze-leaved, red-flowered canna in his pond, and leaves them there all winter.

Cannas in general require plenty of water and a rich soil. But *C. glauca* is usually the one thought of as a potential "water canna". And what a good plant it is: such broad glaucous foliage is always useful in a garden, rather like the bloomy, sea-green foliage of *Melanthus major*, *Rudbeckia maxima* or *Nicotiana glauca*.

C. glauca has a spike of demure, pale yellow flowers, clenched tightly to the stem, and the whole plant can rise to 6-7ft tall.

Ian Cooke, who holds the National Collection of cannas at his nursery, Brookings Exotics, near Launceston, Cornwall, grows *C. glauca* in soil, but is aware of the plant's success in water. A planting depth of not more than 6in below water level seems to keep it happy.

But what an addition to water-side marginal planting cannas could be. At Longwood Gardens in America, famous for its computer-coordinated music and fountains, Robert Armstrong started hybridising *C. glauca* in the 1970s, and there are now several hybrids gaining ground in Britain.

C. glauca, from the West Indies and South America, is taller than



Ian and Joyce Cooke, who hold the National Collection of cannas

most of the hybrids. The variety 'Ra' is lemon yellow, darker than the species, and grows to about 5ft. 'Endeavour', a soft pink, and 'Taney', a burnt orange, also grow to about 5ft. 'Erebus', a salmon pink, grows to about 3ft.

C. glauca and its hybrids are less clump-forming than the usual *C. indica* hybrids. Instead, they throw out long, brittle rhizomes 6-9in under the soil surface (or water), which can spring up a couple of feet away from the parent stem. Consequently it is less easy to persuade the roots into a pot for selling.

But wouldn't it be exciting to establish a colony of it in a pond, leaving it there through the winter? If *C. indica* can survive a winter under water, then surely *C. glauca* ought to. A sideshoot or two lifted in autumn and stored indoors would act as an insurance policy.

Whether in soil or water, if cannas of any variety are to be taken in for the winter they should be lifted after flowering in autumn, the tops cut down, and the roots kept dark and dry, but just short of shrivelling. Then the roots should

be divided in March or April, and repotted, each budded rhizome with a length of root being capable of making a new plant.

The plants can then be grown on under glass, ready for planting out when the danger of frost is past, and can be in flower by the beginning of July. Good light levels early in the year are important.

The canna root system starts into life in spring from the rhizome, without the help of last year's roots. Nevertheless, there is usually a gain in stature from any plant left in situ over the winter, so long as it continues to be well fed, and is divided once the soil is exhausted.

In *The English Flower Garden* of 1883, William Robinson wrote that "cannas, protected by a coating of litter, have been left out in Battersea park through severe winters, and during the unfavourable summer of 1867 attained a height of nearly 12ft".

It is important to keep the rhizome below the frost penetration level. In soil, a thick layer of old compost, mulch or leaf litter will suffice to insulate the roots. But this

WEEKEND TIPS

Take cuttings of perennials and perennial wallflowers, pushing them in around the edge of a bin-pot, to be potted on in spring as replacements for old stock.

Bring potted azaleas indoors to a cool greenhouse. Keep moist and light, and start to feed only when the flowerbuds start to swell.

Start a new compost heap with the first autumn leaves. Cut down the tops of herbaceous plants and annuals. Dust with lime.

Light coverings of leaves on lawns may be removed with a rotary mower, which cuts them up and speeds rotting.

Check that summer growth has not tightened tree ties around young trunks; adjust as necessary.

HOUSE HUNTERS' GUIDE TO BUYING ABROAD

Page 6



Canna collection (left to right): red-pink 'Endeavour', lemon yellow 'Ra' and burnt orange 'Taney'

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PROPERTY

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This Marbella villa costs £1.3m through Knight Frank
With more Britons buying abroad,
Cheryl Taylor looks at homes for
bargain hunters and big spenders

If you are considering a continental home, start looking now. In the wake of the domestic housing revival, those with money to spend are spending it abroad, often with a view to early retirement. Paddy Dring, a partner at Knight Frank's international department, says: "There has been a steady growth in activity across Europe, with the British leading the way."

FRANCE

Despite the strength of the franc, the British are still buying property in France. Vendors are often prepared to accept a lower price, particularly in rural areas, where British buyers remain the driving force.

Vivien Bridge, of Northern France Properties, reports a brisk trade in country cottages and village houses up to £40,000 in the Mayenne, a peaceful farming region 90 minutes' drive from St. Malo. "This quiet corner of France tends to be ignored by British holidaymakers travelling to

the Dordogne and the Charente, and prices are lower than in Normandy and Brittany, to the north. A habitable two-bedroom house with a garden can still be found for £20,000, or a restored three-bedroom farmhouse in half an acre for £40,000.

Many Britons are buying homes in the Gers, a rich agricultural region of south-west France, close to the foothills of the Pyrenees. Large Gascon country houses, stonebuilt with wooden shutters, can be bought for about £150,000 in good condition.

There is a good supply of property and prices are low off the tourist track, about an hour's drive from Toulouse airport. Bargain properties range from farmbuildings and village houses to chateaux, many with land.

Ulan Purslow, who has been selling property in the Gers for six years, has 200 properties on his books, mostly within a 90-minute drive of the Atlantic coast or skiing in the Pyrenees. "British people come here because houses are bigger and the weather is warmer," he



A British buyer paid £435,000 for this villa built in 18th-century classical Portuguese style at Pinheiros Altos, a golf course complex near Quinta Do Lago in the Algarve

says. "It looks like the Cotswolds, with less rain. Prices are half those in Provence, and there has not been an influx of foreign buyers."

He is asking £156,000 for a five-bedroom 18th-century country house, near the village of Condom; and £356,000 for a beautiful six-bedroom chateau in 4.5 acres of parkland, with a two-bedroom luxury cottage and a pool-house, 20 miles northwest of Auch.

ITALY

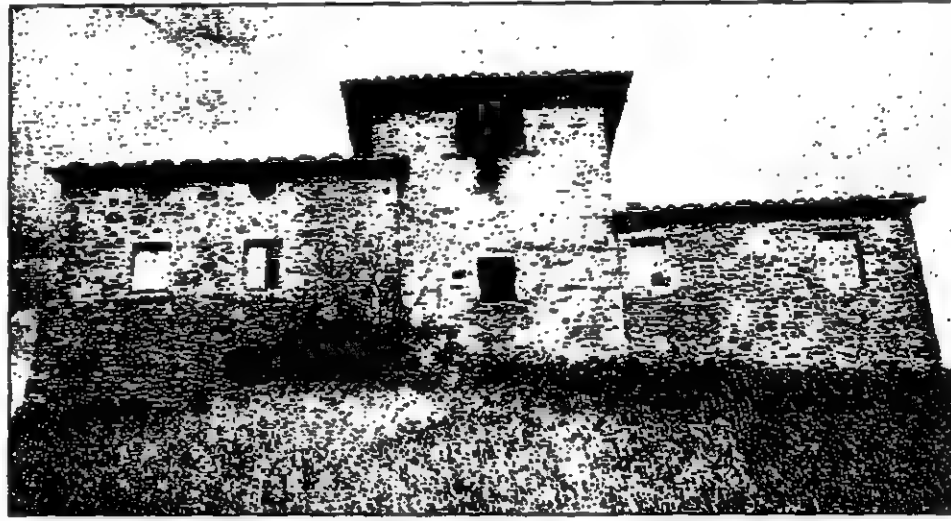
There is renewed interest in Tuscany and neighbouring Umbria, the green heart of Italy, where many Britons own second homes.

According to Steve Emmett of Brian A. French & Associates, the property market there is experiencing increased activity in the range up to £50,000, and over

£250,000. "Many prospective British purchasers keen to move to the area have been unable to sell their UK homes. But now they are able to move and have cash to spend," he says. "Around half our clients are looking to settle permanently in Italy."

Despite the influx of wealthy Brits to Tuscany and Umbria, the supply of ancient stone dwellings has not completely dried up, although good quality houses are harder to find. Abandoned farmhouses, medieval cottages and even ruined castles can still be found scattered across the gentle hillsides, among the vineyards and olive groves.

Property values vary according to area, but generally prices rise nearer Florence, Siena or Cortona. Brian A. French has a large stone-built Tuscan farmhouse in need of renovation, in five



Tuscan farmhouse, with five acres, ripe for renovation: yours for £115,000

acres, near Cortona, at £115,000 or a three-bedroom farmhouse, in the hills above Lucca, for £158,000.

Prices fall further south and east in Le Marche, where you could pick up a restored three-bedroom farmhouse with a couple of acres for about £65,000 or a run-down village house for £16,000.

The Italian Riviera, once the epitome of style for English aristocrats wintering abroad, is attracting British interest again. The rugged crescent of coast from Ventimiglia on the French border to Portovenere, with its palm-fringed beaches and bright gardens, old fishing towns and vine-clad hillsides, has much to offer. This part of Italy enjoys one of the warmest winter climates in the country. Property is not cheap, but compared with the French Riviera, homes offer better value for money. Prices are lower around Imperia, the olive oil capital, with its bustling port, about an hour's drive from Nice airport.

In the hills above Imperia, an old two-bedroom village house, needing modernisation, with balcony and a roof terrace, costs about

£38,000, through specialist agent Linda Travella, who has sold several properties in the area to British buyers. A three-bedroom apartment for renovation, in a 17th-century palazzo, is for sale at £44,000, or a restored one-bedroom flat at £45,000, a short distance from the Mediterranean.

SPAIN

After six years in the doldrums, the property market on Spain's Costa del Sol is starting to improve.

There is more new building along the coast and property prices in prime areas — at the edge of a beach or golf course or around Marbella — are rising, but slowly.

Cheryl Fielding of the Fielding Partnership, a Spanish estate agency run by English chartered surveyors, believes the area has benefited greatly from EU funds. Resale property is still good value, she says. A two-bedroom garden flat at Riviera del Sol, east of Marbella, is on offer at £39,000, and a detached three-bedroom villa, with sea views, at Calahonda, at £90,000.

Many Britons are moving into the mountain foothills behind the coast, where the same agency is offering a three-bedroom country house in two acres of fruit trees for £113,000, 20 minutes' drive from the sea.

Paddy Dring, of Knight Frank, reports increased activity at the top of the market — £300,000-plus in the Marbella area — which buys a new four-bedroom villa, with staff quarters, west of Marbella.

At the less developed southern end of this coastline, the 4,400-acre Sotogrande estate, with its minuscule-fringed golf courses, 20 minutes' drive from Gibraltar airport, is popular with British buyers. It has three golf courses, including two 18-hole championship courses, designed by Robert Trent Jones. More than 60 villas have been built and sold in the past two years, and more are under construction.

A new three-bedroom detached villa costs £190,000. Apartments in the port of Sotogrande range from £100,000 for two bedrooms, up to £386,000 for a four-bedroom town house with a pool on the terrace; many have

an optional 15-metre berth at the bottom of the garden.

The seriously rich go to Majorca in search of traditional farmhouses and old town houses costing more than £300,000. Ancient 20-roomed palaces for renovation in Palma, the capital, are fetching up to £1 million, according to Naomi Greatbanks of Hamptons International.

PORTUGAL

The Algarve is attracting British buyers with up to £300,000 to spend on a villa in a luxury golfing development.

Hamptons International reports keen interest from British clients in the upmarket leisure estates, with golf courses, near Faro airport, not least the 1,700-acre Quinta do Lago, which has several palatial homes for sale.

Here you could buy a five-bedroom, five-bathroom villa in half an acre for £595,000 with a swimming pool.

With its 72 holes of golf, Quinta do Lago is now the largest golfing complex in Europe. The latest golf course development at Quinta, Pinheiros Altos is attracting the most interest. It is a 300-acre site overlooking the nature reserve of the Ria Formosa tidal inlet, which includes an 18-hole golf course. The developer has sold 91 villa plots alongside the fairways, at prices up to £295,000. Building is under way on 77 houses and apartments, priced from £195,000 for a two-bedroom flat to £269,000 for a three-bedroom semi-detached house.

● Northern France Properties, 0181-891 750; Linda Travella, 01322-660 988; Brian A. French & Associates, 0171-735 8244; Hamptons International, 0171-493 8222; Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171; Fielding Partnership, 0181-332 9829; Ian Parlow, 0233-636 76150; Pinheiros Altos, 0171-622 9922; Sotogrande, 0171-351 2385; Sijer, 0171-384 1200.

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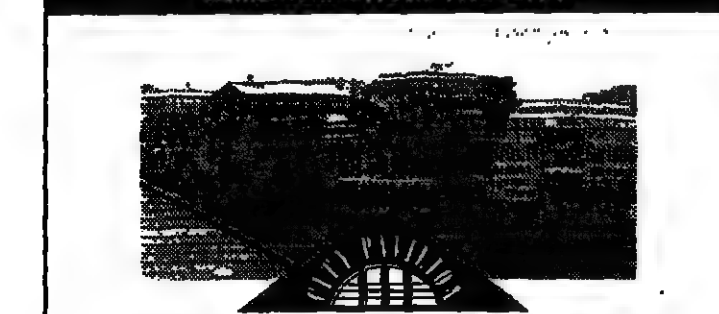
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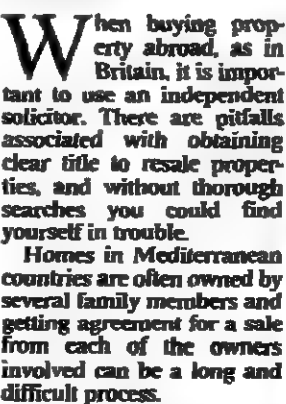
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YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING AND SELLING ABROAD



This stone cottage in the Gers region of France sold for £42,000 to a British buyer

When buying property abroad, as in Britain, it is important to use an independent solicitor. There are pitfalls associated with obtaining clear title to resale properties, and without thorough searches you could find yourself in trouble.

Homes in Mediterranean countries are often owned by several family members and getting agreement for a sale from each of the owners involved can be a long and difficult process.

Unlike buying a home in Britain, any debts outstanding on a property in Spain or Italy, for example, are inherited by the new owner. You may even find there is a mortgage on your new home, which must be paid off before title deeds can be released.

■ FRANCE: as in most other European countries, property transactions in France are completed before a public notary.

One snag is that all fees, including notary fees of 8 to 12 per cent and 6 to 8 per cent for the estate agent (the cheaper the property, the higher the fees), must be paid by the purchaser. Most British agents selling property in France include their fee in the quoted price, but check.

If you sell your home within two years of purchase, you must pay 33.6 per cent of the profit in tax. Always keep any receipts for

repairs and restoration work to the property as these can be set against your final tax bill for the sale.

■ ITALY: the initial contract (compravendita) involves financial penalties if either party backs out. The buyer forfeits his deposit, between 20 and 30 per cent of the agreed price, and the seller has to pay back double the sum deposited. Once the transfer deed (rogito) is signed and the money handed over, the notary registers the transfer deed with the local land registry and the property is yours.

Stamp duty paid by second home buyers on resale property is 10 per cent of registered value on buildings and 17 per cent on land. If you are buying a new home, Italian VAT (IVA) is payable at 9 per cent of value. Notarial fees are

charged on a sliding scale from 1 to 3 per cent.

If you sell within five years and are not resident in Italy, you will be liable to pay capital gains tax on any increase in value.

■ SPAIN: your solicitor should check that there are no mortgages on the property, that the vendor does not owe taxes and that planning permission has been obtained. Buying costs include Spanish VAT (IVA) at 7 per cent on new homes, plus a documentary tax (AJD) at 0.5 per cent. Resale homes attract a transfer-tax of 6 per cent of value. Land for building is taxed at 16 per cent, plus AJD at 0.5 per cent. Your final bill is likely to be 10 to 12 per cent of the purchase price, plus legal fees. Cash from a sale can be taken out of Spain, less capital gains tax.

■ PORTUGAL: after signing the provisional contract of sale, the buyer must pay a 10 per cent deposit, which is forfeited if he does not go ahead. If the vendor pulls out, he must pay the purchaser twice the deposit.

Buyers pay transfer tax (SISA) on homes, rural land and building plots, costing more than 10 million Escudos (£41,666). Portuguese VAT (IVA) of 17 per cent is levied on a new home. Notary fees and registration costs amount to 2.5 per cent of the price. On resale, you can repatriate the proceeds, less capital gains tax.

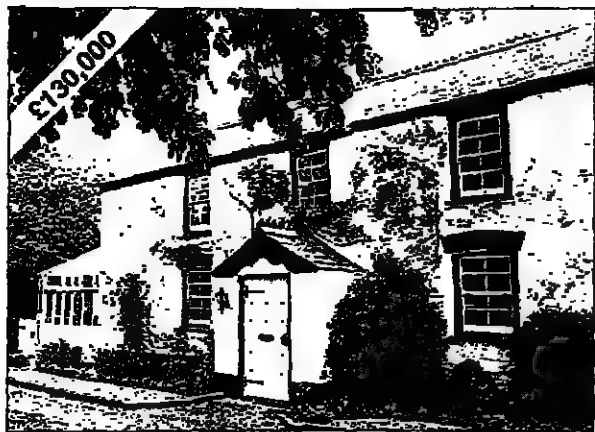
■ Solicitors in Britain who specialise in overseas conveyancing include: Dolson & Fine (Italy), 0171-628 8163; French (France), 01473 232 121; Neville de Rougemont (Portugal), 0171-440 4656; Thrings and Long (France), 01225 448 444; Withers (France and Spain), 0171-936 1000.

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CORNWALL
Lantallack Cross, Landrake, near Saltash. Detached cottage with a 2.6 acre garden and paddock in a country setting. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, office, garage. About £130,000 (Punch & Roche, 01752 223933).



DORSET
Bridge Cottage, Chideock. Detached Grade II listed character cottage in the heart of a village, less than a mile from the coast. Four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, living room, study, kitchen/diner and utility. Garden and parking space. About £139,500 (Palmer & Snell, 01308 422929).



HAMPSHIRE
Blackmans Cottage, Botley. Grade II listed village house with a large west-facing walled garden. Four bedrooms, bathroom, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, sunroom/breakfast room and cloakroom. About £150,000 (John D. Wood, 01962 863131).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Inverforth House at Hampstead Heath, London, formerly owned by the Industrial Orthopaedic Society, is being redeveloped into homes costing from £325,000 to £4 million

Kith and Sue Sleeman are selling their house in Berkshire, which has an acre and a half of garden plus river frontage, and going to live in an old hospital in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

"My friends think we're mad, but I know we're going to be living in one of the finest city-centre residential sites that I've come across," Mrs Sleeman says. By mid-November there will be no more gardening and only a short walk to the shops, railway station, river Avon and Salisbury Cathedral. The Sleemans will be living in a two-bedroom second-floor apartment, which used to be the nurses' home for the city's former general infirmary.

Mr Sleeman, architect for the Cathedral Views development, says: "If the architect goes to live there, it's not a bad recommendation."

As at other developments by different companies, Future Heritage and Frogmore Estates are creating new homes out of an old hospital site. There will be lots of sites available in the future as buildings become surplus to healthcare purposes. More than 800 (non-trust) properties, which could include individual houses, hospitals and health centres, are expected to realise about £1.2 billion for reinvestment in healthcare over the next few years. About 190 properties are already on the market, though not all will go for residential use.

In Salisbury, the Sleemans are paying more than £200,000 for three bedrooms (one will become a dining room), two bathrooms, a sitting room and kitchen in an Edwardian building which houses eight other apartments and a small penthouse.

Their apartment is light and airy with seven windows in the living room and a balcony in the main bedroom overlooking the river Avon.

The infirmary itself, John Wood House, dates from 1767. The Grade II listed building is being converted into ten apartments, with prices from £167,500. The development also includes two new terraces of five town houses, from £205,000. The first homes will be ready in November. A third has been reserved.

At Virginia Park, Virginia Water, Surrey, 213 houses and apartments are being built by Octagon Developments in a 24-acre, walled estate which contains a Grade I listed former Victorian sanatorium. The building, Crossland House, is being converted into 23 three and four-storey town houses, the first available now at £475,000 to £650,000.

In the grounds, 36 houses (£305,000 to £335,000) will be ready next March. The first of 68 apartments (£300,000) will be ready next spring.

Developers are offering a new lease of life to sites in prime locations

At Hampstead Heath in north London, Pamlin Properties, in association with Frogmore Estates, is converting Inverforth House, a Grade II listed mansion formerly owned by the Industrial Orthopaedic Society. Nine units, including the two wings which each have a swimming pool and average 7,000 to 8,000 square feet, are being sold at

£500,000 to £4 million. The homes should be available by next September. Four new buildings and four refurbished ones at Inverforth Close (£325,000 to £1 million) have been completed and most of them sold.

The Raven Group is working on six hospital sites for residential purposes. At Tehidy Park, near Camborne,

Cornwall, it plans 22 houses in a Grade II listed former geriatric hospital and 28 houses in the 45 acres. Work is due to start next month, with the first homes ready in May. Prices are from £60,000 to £240,000.

At Lancaster Moor, Lancashire, Raven plans to convert a Grade II listed building into 28 houses, and build 71 houses on ten acres, keeping 35 acres as parkland. Prices will be from £85,000 to £245,000.

Nick Burr, of Raven, says: "We design the homes specifically for the site and incorporate architectural points in them from any listed buildings we find there. By converting these old buildings to residential use we are saving them for future generations."

Save Britain's Heritage is also concerned to do that. Emma Phillips, author of *Mind Over Matter*, a report considering the future of more than 100 psychiatric hospitals, says: "They are often wonderful buildings, designed by well-known architects and were objects of great civic pride. What we're worried about is an enormous blot on the landscape if large-scale development takes place in the grounds which is unsympathetic to the original building

and the site itself." She cites Moorhaven Village, in the southern part of the Dartmoor National Park, as an example of a sympathetic conversion. In 1994, Jonathan Mathys and Andrea Peacock bought Moorhaven psychiatric hospital and converted a large number of buildings into 100 homes.

A few places are still for sale, including a seven-storey water tower (£30,000), which could be turned into living and working accommodation. Mr Mathys reckons £60,000 needs to be spent on it. There is also a four-bedroom house with a two-bedroom cottage attached in six acres of paddock for £250,000.

Another village development is envisaged for the 19th-century Herrison psychiatric hospital, north of Dorchester, Dorset. The 87.84 acre site is for sale through Goadsby & Harding in Bournemouth. It has outline planning consent for about 430 homes, including converted and new units.

In Somerset, half of the 130 houses and flats which Pinecraven has developed at the old Grade II listed Mendip psychiatric hospital site outside Wells are now occupied. Prices in the Victorian building are from £54,000 to £75,000. On the 50-acre site, close to a cricket pitch and golf club, 21 three and four-bedroom houses have been built, with another 65 to go up next year. Prices are £90,000 to £110,000.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

FACT FILE

- Cathedral Views: Future Heritage, 01225 446633; agents Myddelton & Major, 01722 337575, and Humberts, 01722 324422.
- Virginia Park: Octagon, 01344 844622; agents Barton Wyatt, 01344 842857.
- Inverforth House: Pamlin Properties, 0181-349 1991.
- Raven Group, 0171-235 0422.
- Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX (0171-228 3338). *Mind Over Matter* costs £12.95, including p&p.
- Moorhaven, 01752 892411.
- Goadsby & Harding, 01202 299300.
- Pinecraven, 01749 675550.



Virginia Water's old hospital gets a pool

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SHOPPING

Coffee tables are back — as practical as ever but now in bold colours and adventurous designs and materials

Little tables with a lot of taste

Photographs by DES JENSC



Left: Truro, zinc-surface table, £275 from the Conran Shop. Blue cups and saucers, £5.25 from Heals. Yellow Mia chair, from £752 at Purvis & Purvis.

Background (from left to right): Top row: Glass-topped fruit bowl table, £980 made-to-order from Blue. Conran from Solaris repro of original 1960s piece, £550 at Solaris. Blue heart-shaped mosaic, £345 from Ore Design Company. Middle row: Ramen, £195 from the Conran Shop. Zebra-striped coconut table, £1,450 from Andrew Martin. Bottom row: Ozone table, £575 by Proctor Rihl from Purvis & Purvis. Thai teak table, £695 from Andrew Martin.

In the wake of the gourmet coffee revolution, the coffee table has caught on once more. The new, cool yet practical coffee tables come in a wealth of designs, materials and colours to suit the home of the late 1990s.

"Customers treat coffee tables more like a fashion accent," claims Craig Allen, a buyer for the Conran Shop in London. "People are more likely to change a coffee table than any other item of furniture. And they are getting bolder too: willing to be adventurous in their choice."

Mr Allen sees a relationship between consumer needs and the kind of materials in vogue. During the recession people favoured lots of heavy wood and natural finishes, he says, but the "feel-good" factor draws them towards industrial polished metal, plastics and laminates in modish hues of lime green, orange and cerise.

Many of the smartest coffee tables are on castors. The Conran Shop's "Tavolo" (£695), designed by Gae Aulenti, has rubber wheels. Habitat's "Pietra" is a moveable feast of granite-look Italian caradisa stone on a steamed beech base at £249. The more modest Ikea "Timra" beech-veneer model with metal castors costs £69.

Tables with a function apart from being used to rest your coffee cups (and feet) are popular, too. Many have integral shelving or drawers for storage. More ingenious is Blue's glass-topped table with a built-in polished chrome fruit bowl.

Devotees of Parisian zinc-topped bars can evoke a similar atmosphere in their living room with the sophisticated "Capuchin" table costing £1,095 from the Conran Shop. The table surface is sheet zinc, which doesn't stay new-looking for long, but the patination is all part of the charm.

For those who admire the Japanese look, Corin Mellor has designed "Ramen", a pleasingly free-flowing and curvaceous birch-faced ply table, £195 at Conran.

The "Remus" table (£575) from the Conran Shop ages with its owner, being made from deeply coloured "green" English oak, which will move and warp and possibly develop characterful lines and cracks.

Tactile, coloured coffee tables are the buzzword at

merly of the Italian furniture company Cappellini. Resin feels soft and user-friendly, especially in the "Spanna" table, a burgundy laminate on double-layered beechwood, perfect for clumsy red wine drinkers, and costing £249.

Mr Cappa favours clean lines and simple, elongated shapes, "though its difficult to tempt customers away from the rectangle or introduce different heights", he says. Many people may be surprised to know that coffee tables are a 20th-century invention. Earlier generations would invariably rest their coffee cups on high console tables. Continentals still favour tall tables.

Coffee tables evocative of distant travels are bestsellers at the Andrew Martin shop in London, whether the modern classic, chunky, teak Thai

carved table at £395-£750, the curvaceous coconut shell tables from the Philippines at £900, or the table comprising a couple of vintage Louis Vuitton leather suitcases pushed together (£600).

See-through tables are easy on the eye and work well in smaller homes. Seng Watson's futuristic, elliptical Perspex table (£1,200 to order) is half suspension bridge, half floating spaceship, and is available at Tom Dixon's Space.

Dixon's own shimmering, lunar, doty tables (£550) work well placed at jaunty angles, as do the fluid lines and soft modernity of Ikea's green-and-white plastic "Njuranda" tables at £24.

Some stylists are hailing an imminent revival of 1960s plastics, typified by Ecro Saarinen's "Knoll International" coffee table with a plastic tulip

design, £735 from Knoll International. Mark Newson's bright red self-assembly "Gello" concertinas like a Chinese paper lantern, £250 from David Gill.

For the more eco-friendly, Simon Moore has designed "Funky Coffee Table Mark 1" (£200), which is made to order from a mix of recycled plastic and aluminium.

Jamie Hart's "Wine Cage" (about £1,000 to order) was designed especially for wine lovers. Bottles can be stored inside the glass and mild steel table and are rotated as the wheels are turned on a clockwork-like mechanism — perfect for showing off your smartest empties, but hardly ideal for serious vintages.

Just as striking are Tom Barker's heart-shaped, mosa-

ic-topped tables (£345 to order), which would look good in the garden, too — brilliant Mediterranean blue petal-shaped mosaics are arranged like a huge flower.

Both the above prototypes are at Ore Design, a young design workshop in Battersea, south London, where fantasy coffee tables can be created according to one's imagination and budget.

For the terminally indecisive, Caroline Musson, a designer and shop owner of Ore Design, suggests her "Tri-table", a giant coffee table, ideal for television dinners, which divides in half to make two square tables when you need more space.

A recent commission was from a fashion editor who wanted a coffee table large enough for her to design pages on yet still show the carpet underneath, and which was not made purely of glass.

Ms Musson designed a 6ft by 5ft table with a frame of sandblasted glass, underpinned with a diverting steel cage effect and cannon ball-sized steel feet. As Ms Musson explains: "Coffee tables deserve plenty of attention — after all, we sit round them far more than dining tables."

SUDI PIGOTT

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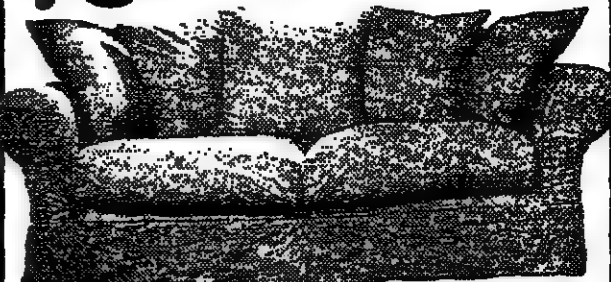
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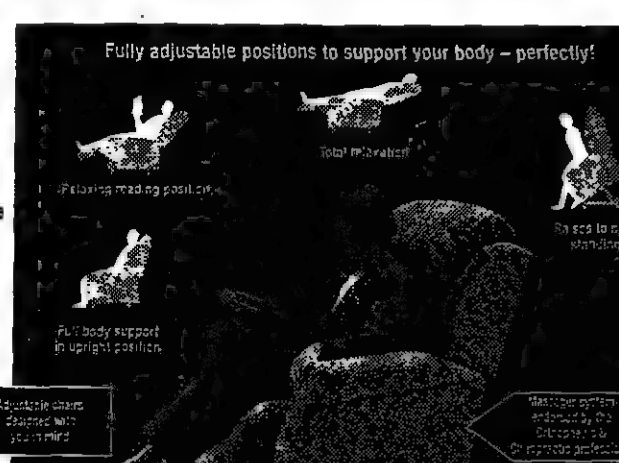
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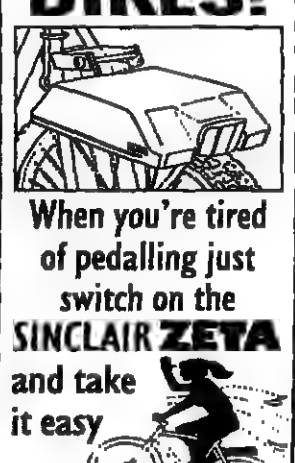
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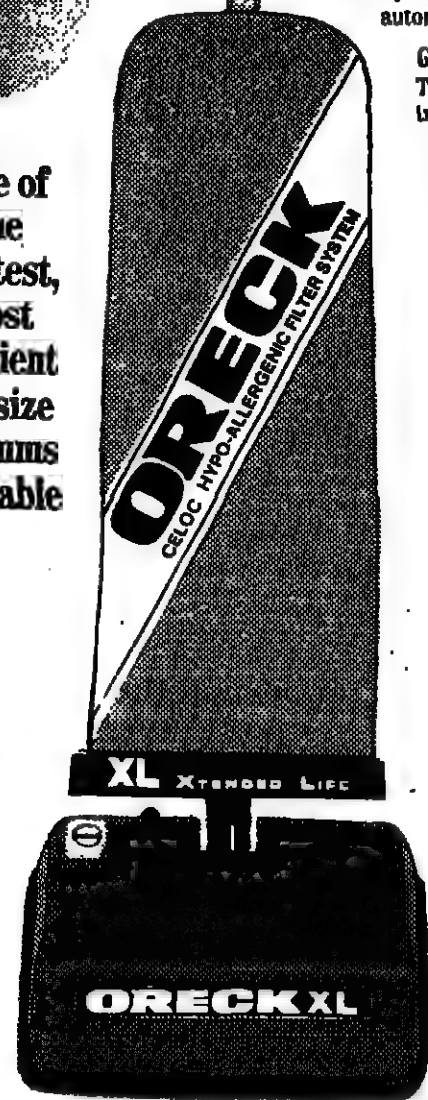
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Ginger & Impotence

FREE REPORT

A new study claims that a regular intake of ginger can bring significant relief to people suffering from impotence. Taken to the right dosage, this study concluded that the spice can not only ease the symptoms of impotence, but may also provide a permanent solution to the problem. What's more it appears likely that there are a number of other natural substances that act as a sexual stimulant. Now you can get a summary of these findings, written in straightforward English, free of jargon or confusing language. This summary is FREE to sufferers - with no obligation, now or ever. To claim your copy, write to United Research Publishers Ltd, Dept 6P5, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP.

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For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in Punch. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said This England. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Seminal reading includes De Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love Alice's Diary which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you: when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

Or for anyone who loves a good read:

Over half a million readers have already discovered the joys of Vernon Coleman's series of novels based in and around the fictional Devon village of Bilbury. These novels are in the tradition of the very best of English writing - full of gentle humour, anecdotes and colourful characters - just the thing for relaxing and unwinding. These are stories of a time and a place where no one needed to lock their doors. If you enjoy a good book and you enjoy the country then you'll love reading The Bilbury Chronicles.

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More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy - the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations. None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

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Where the muses lived

■ THE ATLAS OF LITERATURE
Edited by Malcolm Bradbury
De Agostini Editions, £25
ISBN 1 85193 837 3

JAMES JOYCE famously said of Dublin that, if the city were destroyed, it could be reconstructed from his books. Pure hubris, of course; but the way his native city permeates his work is nevertheless astonishing.

This handsome volume is based on the premise that while Joyce may have been extreme, he was not untypical. It argues that there has always been a vital connection between writers and place, and sets out to delineate it. Its mechanism is a series of independent essays on places which have strong literary connections; most are heavily illustrated by annotated maps and photographs and are linked by a modicum of commentary.

It is not clear what Malcolm Bradbury's role as general editor involved, but I doubt it included any copy editing. I cannot believe he would have passed some of the extraordinary stylistic and factual lapses. What literary prof, for example, would pass a sentence like the following? "When the Great Exhibition was opened by Prince Albert in 1851 in the Crystal Palace in London's Hyde Park, it did not only signal Britain's proud, pioneering role in the technological revolution that was starting to transform mid-19th century Europe and America."

The cast of contributors is long and in part distinguished. In the latter category one finds Arthur Miller (on Broadway), Valentine Cunningham (on the Spanish Civil War), Owen Dudley Edwards (on 18th-century Dublin and Edinburgh) and Christopher Bigsby (on various American locations and topics). Such luminaries are accompanied by a squad of jobbing hacks of the D.J. Taylor and Nigel West variety.

Not surprisingly, the collection is pretty uneven. Some essays stick closely to place, while others resemble A-level guides to whole artistic movements. Some contributions are informative or striking; others read like reconstituted guide-book stuff. But the book is redeemed by its livelier contributions, by having a bibliography and a decent index, and by retailing all kinds of useless — if fascinating — information. The revelation, for example, that Henry James dined out on no fewer than 107 occasions in a single year may not change the world, but it helps to explain his extraordinary style.

JOHN NAUGHTON

Wonderless wasteland of Oz

Nigel Hawkes discovers how the arrival of man in the Antipodes 35,000 years ago spelt the death of a continent

AUSTRALIA seems to inspire big books that paint a gloomy picture of human behaviour. Robert Hughes's magnificent *Fatal Shore*, about the peopling of Australia, has now been joined by the paperback edition of Tim Flannery's book, which details how those people, and their Aboriginal predecessors, put paid to the native fauna.

This, too, is a big powerful book, written in admirably spare prose and avoiding most of the traps set for those attempting ecological history. Australia before man was a canvas drawn in vivid colours and never swept clean by the spread of ice. Its animals were extraordinary and mostly doomed, for man brought fire and a taste for meat.

The marsupials now extinct mostly went to fill the bellies of the first colonisers, long before Captain Cook's arrival. Among them were the marsupial rhino, seven species of kangaroo and giant wombats, the Australian equivalent of the megafauna of North America which also fell into man's traps and onto his stone-tipped spears.

But it happened earlier in Australia, at least 35,000 years ago. What was left were the swiftest marsupials, the kangaroos and wallabies, wombats which could hide under-

■ THE FUTURE EATERS
By Tim Flannery
Secker & Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 20351 0

ground and koala bears which could hide in trees. These survivors suggest by their very nature that it was a predator, and not climate change, which eliminated their fellows so comprehensively.

Flannery, who is the senior research scientist in mammalogy at the Australian Museum in Sydney, is an expert who carries his exper-

tise lightly. His thesis is that by destroying the ecosystem they stumbled on, Australia's first humans consumed their own future. He asserts that in spite of its small population, Australia is overpopulated, with between six and twelve million people more than the land can support — one of the few conventional ecological pieties in an otherwise highly original book.

Like Edward O. Wilson, whose love of ants underpins everything he writes, Flannery was clearly a born scientist, boiling dead kangaroos as

a child in order to understand their anatomy. A poor mathematician — another feature shared with Wilson — his first degree was in Middle English literature, and he only became a scientist later. His PhD thesis was on the evolution of kangaroos.

A book as broad and sweeping as *The Future Eaters* is bound to raise the hackles of more conventionally academic scholars. But for the general reader it is a stimulating romp through Antipodean history, beautifully written and full of unexpected facts. For a nation long thought to have no history before British colonisation, Australia has provided a story of surprising richness.



Aborigine: the first despoiler?

Potboiler leaves a Nazi smell

Peter Millar on a tired thriller with the usual German suspects

GROWING up Jewish in Northern Ireland is, I imagine, an exotic enough experience in itself. When the individual concerned then discovers a passionate love for Arabic languages and Egyptian history and a high-flying academic career, it is unsurprising that when he turns to thriller-writing the results are extraordinary.

And so they have been. Daniel Easterman has a string of taut, exotically plotted, international thrillers to his credit. At his best, he can weave a web of suspense.



Easterman: disappointing

laced with historical and mythological references that bait the imagination, satisfactorily embroidered with bullet holes and bloodshed. All cracking examples of the genre.

Which is precisely why his latest book, *The Final Judgment*, is such a desperate disappointment. The premise is tempting enough: the kidnapping of a young Israeli boy living with his parents in Sandria goes awesomely wrong, ending in his rescue but their murder. All despite

■ THE FINAL JUDGMENT
By Daniel Easterman
HarperCollins, £6.99
ISBN 0 00 224156 0

the heroic intervention of his uncle, a grizzled war veteran and orthodox Jew from the disputed West Bank settlements. So far, so good, possibly, except that the heart sinks immediately the couple's murder is revealed to have been accompanied by a swastika daubed on the bedroom wall. Surely not? Surely the inventive Easterman is not going to turn out just another tale of neo-Nazis on the rampage. Oh yes, I am afraid he is.

The plot of this book is a cobbled-together, unoriginal mishmash of off-the-peg *Obergruppenführers* and Italian mafiosi. None of this is made better by numerous glaring linguistic howlers among the many German phrases dropped in for supposed authenticity. Meanwhile, the characters, from the geriatric Goebbels-fans to the well-meaning undercover agents of anti-imperialist Zionism are straight out of a million postwar, substandard hack-works.

Even on an interminable intercontinental flight, I found myself skimming the last hundred pages in the hope of reaching an unexpected, vindicating twist in the tale. All in vain. Yes, there was the usual quota of gory incidents, a climactic underground chase and a particularly predictable double-cross. But in the end, nothing spoils the impression that for once Easterman has signally failed to impress.

PETER MILLAR



Tale of a tubby: Nigel Lawson before and after his diet — the results were so dramatic that some people thought he was ill

Taking no risks with inflation

NIGEL LAWSON has succeeded in reducing his weight, and holding it there, in a way that he never quite managed with inflation. He approaches slimming rather as he did monetary policy — stressing the need "to adopt a small number of simple rules, and then stick to them over a sufficient period of time".

His pocket-size book describing how is a low fat soufflé account, light but nourishing. At 120 pages, it is much slimmer than the 1,100 pages of his "very fat" tome on his years as Chancellor.

Lawson rules out crash programmes, patent slimming products and elaborate calorie-counting systems. Instead, he recommends a commonsense approach aimed at developing good habits — the eternal goal of British macro-economic policy. In the case of his waistline, the

■ THE NIGEL LAWSON DIET BOOK
By Nigel Lawson
Michael Joseph, £13.99
ISBN 0 7181 4175 X

results are impressive. In nine months, he lost five stone, falling to less than 12 stone, where he has remained for a year. At first, he cut out alcohol, dairy products, fat, sugar, fried and starchy foods, but continued with three meals a day — though nothing in between — consisting of fish, the non-fatty bits of meat, poultry and game eggs, fruit, salads (though he dislikes the garish mixed version) and vegetables. He is now permitted some of those forbidden foods.

In the second half of the book, his wife Therese describes a series of weight-conscious, but delicious, recipes. Food

can still be fun. The Lawson story is familiar to those of us who live in the self-indulgent world of journalism and politics, where food and drink fuel conversation, and indiscretion.

As with inflation and public spending, it was always easier to expand. Lawson was only forced to change by a crisis — for once, not in the financial markets but by a painful knee and an embarrassingly cumbersome skiing holiday. The slimming had such a dramatic impact that some thought he was ill.

The leaner Lawson is obviously happier, but something of the old buccaneering Nigel — the fatie who didn't give a damn — has gone. I cannot see Kenneth Clarke doing the same.

PETER RIDDELL

NOVELS IN BRIEF

Little boy lost and found

■ SNOW ON THE MOON
By Keith Heller
Headline, £14.99
ISBN 0 7472 1723 8

SET in the aftermath of the Second World War, Keith Heller's novel deals with loss and exile. Evelyn Winter, a young American woman, is stranded in the town of Escorial in northern Spain by a heavy fall of snow.

There she meets ten-year-old Herschel, a Polish refugee who has become separated from his parents after the liberation. She is intrigued by the child's enigmatic allusions to his past, and by his exceptional gift for drawing: when he appeals to her for help in evading the authorities, she is unable to refuse him — and finds herself caught up in a strange quest.

Heller's blend of historical fact and dreamlike images conveys the tragic events of Herschel's story with a spareness that underlines their horror. The novel is also a fable about spiritual resurrection, written with considerable subtlety.

LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

By Deborah Bosley
Century, £9.99
ISBN 0 7126 7751 8

DEBORAH BOSLEY'S protagonist, wayward, chain-smoking Frances, falls in love with an attractive American, Finn, only to find, after they are married, that he is HIV-positive as a result of a previous affair with a man.

When Frances learns that Finn is dying, she follows him to his mother's house in the Midwest in order to look after him in his last months. Bosley's account of the helpless anger Frances feels at the thought of Finn's imminent death seems entirely plausible, and her refusal to idealise either character makes their predicament seem all the more believable.

THE WONDER BOOK OF THE AIR

By Cynthia Shearer
Bloomsbury, £15.99
ISBN 0 7475 2821 7

CYNTHIA SHEARER'S novel spans three generations of an American family over six decades — from the Second World War to the present day. Its central character, Harrison Durrance, is glimpsed at various stages in his life, from his Georgia childhood to reactionary middle-age during the Nixon era.

At each chronological change, the narrative perspective shifts to accommodate new characters: Harrison's long-suffering wife, Marjorie, offers her view of events, as do the couple's four children, describing the effects on their lives of their father's violence towards their mother.

But, convincing as these accounts are, you feel the point could have been made with greater economy.

CHRISTINA KONING

● On August 24 we stated that bestseller lists other than those that BookTrack provides for us are rarely based on electronic information from the tills. Bookwatch, the other supplier of bestseller lists to national newspapers, uses electronic point-of-sale data for by far the greatest part of its weekly input.

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The Times Bestseller List

HARDBACKS

	No. weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1 TO THE HILT Dick Francis (Michael Joseph, £15.99)	1	1	2,722
2 ICON Frederick Forsyth (Bantam, £16.99)	1	3	1,157
3 LONGITUDE Dava Sobel (Fourth Estate, £12)	4	2	1,147
4 THE BRANDED MAN Catherine Cookson (Bantam, £16.99)	1	5	907
5 DESPERATION Stephen King (Hodder, £16.99)	2	4	659
6 ENEMY OF GOD Bernard Cornwell (Michael Joseph, £15.99)	1	16	471
7 GUNPOWDER PLOT Antonia Fraser (Weidenfeld, £20)	1	7	453
8 STORY FOR EUROPE Will Self (Bloomsbury, £1)	0	0	445
9 PRACTICAL COOKERY Victor Cesarani (Hodder, £16.99)	1	15	367
10 POCKET OXFORD DICTIONARY OF CURRENT ENGLISH Ed. E. W. Fowler (OUP, £7.99)	0	0	360
11 MAITRE MUSSARD'S BEQUEST Patrick Suskind (Bloomsbury, £1)	0	0	352
12 TOMBS OF GOD Richard Andrews (Little, Brown, £20)	3	11	345
13 CHARITY Lea Deighton (HarperCollins, £16.99)	1	6	345
14 LABRADOR FIASCO Margaret Atwood (Bloomsbury, £1)	0	0	341
15 BEANO BOOK 1997 (D. C. Thomson, £4.99)	4	9	335
16 GREAT GRAMMAR BOOK Jenae Mazels (Riverside, £12.99)	0	0	331
17 WAR WALKS: FROM AGINCOURT TO NORMANDY Richard Holmes (BBC, £16.99)	8	10	316
18 POPCORN Ben Elton (Simon & Schuster, £12.99)	8	19	316
19 THE REGULATORS Richard Bachman (Hodder, £16.99)	1	12	300
20 KEYS TO THE STREET Ruth Rendell (Hutchinson, £15.99)	1	8	290

PAPERBACKS

	No. weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1 NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND Bill Bryson (Black Swan, £6.99)	7	2	3,710
2 GREEN MILE & COFFEY ON THE MILE Stephen King (Penguin, £5.99)	2	1	2,453
3 WINTER KING Bernard Cornwell (Penguin, £5.99)	1	7	2,409
4 THE OBSESSION Catherine Cookson (Corgi, £5.99)	1	4	2,409
5 THE HIGHWAY CODE Dept. of Transport (HMSO, £0.99)	9	5	1,864
6 WHIT Iain Banks (Abacus, £6.99)	0	0	1,845
7 THE HORSE WHISPERER Helen Evans (Corgi, £5.99)	16	3	1,452
8 HOPE Len Deighton (HarperCollins, £5.99)	0	0	1,418
9 COLLINS GEM FRENCH DICTIONARY (HarperCollins, £3.99)	41	6	1,375
10 HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Indigo, £5.99)	24	17	1,286
11 SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix, £6.99)	39	7	1,211
12 MAYAN PROPHECIES Adrian Geoffrey Gilbert (Element, £5.99)	0	0	1,013
13 COLLINS GEM GERMAN DICTIONARY (HarperCollins, £3.99)	1	9	995
14 THE GHOST ROAD Pat Barker (Penguin, £6.99)	11	14	976
15 COMPLETE THEORY TEST FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES Driving Standards Agency (HMSO, £9.99)	26	11	971
16 SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES Michael Haralambos (Collins Educational, £16.75)	0	0	933
17 A SPELL OF WINTER Helen Dunmore (Penguin, £6.99)	0	0	902
18 ENIGMA Robert Harris (Arrow, £5.99)	20	0	896
19 STAR WARS: SHIELD OF LIES Michael P. Kube-McDowell (Bantam, £4.99)	1	8	861
20 EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Daniel Goleman (Bloomsbury, £7.99)	4	15	854

This Times list monitored 41,699 titles representing high-street sales of £54 million during the week.

SUPPLIED BY WHITAKER BOOKTRACK (01420 545420)

When Britannia waives the rules

FUTURISTIC thrillers set far ahead in time allow the reader a semblance of comfort. "Not in my lifetime" has the same ring as "not in my back yard", but Salzman's novel set in the year 2010 is far more unsettling for its sheer proximity, describing as it does a brutish Britain with all alien features of the present subtly magnified into terror.

A Labour government has failed; likewise a Conservative backlash. The central institutions, pushed and pulled by varieties of political correctness, no longer work. Order is achieved by the populace locking themselves indoors, and law is impotent against society's lack of faith in it. The underclass of unemployed and unemployable, created by technology's devaluation of an uneducated workforce, veers between subversion, aggression and the need to be entertained. Children smash cars, knowing nobody dares prevent them.

In this milieu, Heather practises as a barrister, defending a charismatic man accused of murder, and falls in love with him. Her leader in the case is curiously disinterested, less so her partner, who sees the defendant as hot material for a television documentary. She is haunted by ghostly messages, gremlins inside her apartment and an increasing awareness of being an unwitting part of a sub-plot in which the gurus of the time plan to neutralise those who have nothing to offer society by immersing them in a cocoon of inescapable plea-

■ A STATE OF SHOCK
By Nicholas Salzman
HarperCollins, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 225008 X



Salzman: anarchic future

sure. Virtual reality, no less. This is all very fine, except that the conspiracy is neither explained nor convincing and the caricatured conspirators themselves only vary between Machiavellian cleverness and clod-like stupidity.

But the strengths are twofold: firstly, in the creation of an atmosphere of confusion so cold that it is as insidious as fog; secondly, in the depiction of an ordinary, albeit talented, woman, falling apart.

The subtext of this sometimes patchy but severely chilling novel is the frightening nature of boredom and the seduction of half-truth. Salzman is one of the new breed who use the conventions of the crime novel to say much more. There is no moral and no solution, only warnings and a haunting twist.

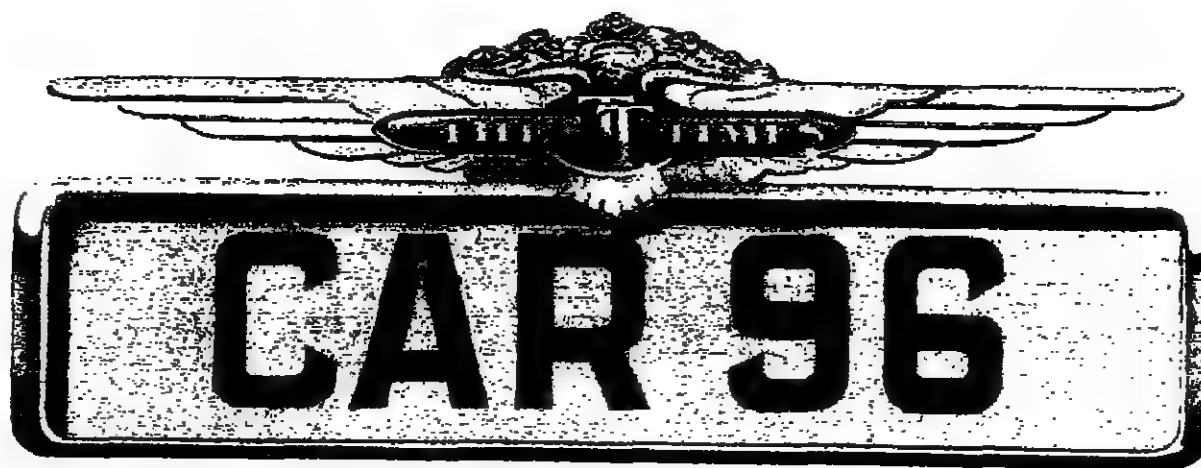
FRANCES FYFIELD

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Dads know best for stars in a class of their own

Page 5



How Melanie turned her car into a fortress on wheels

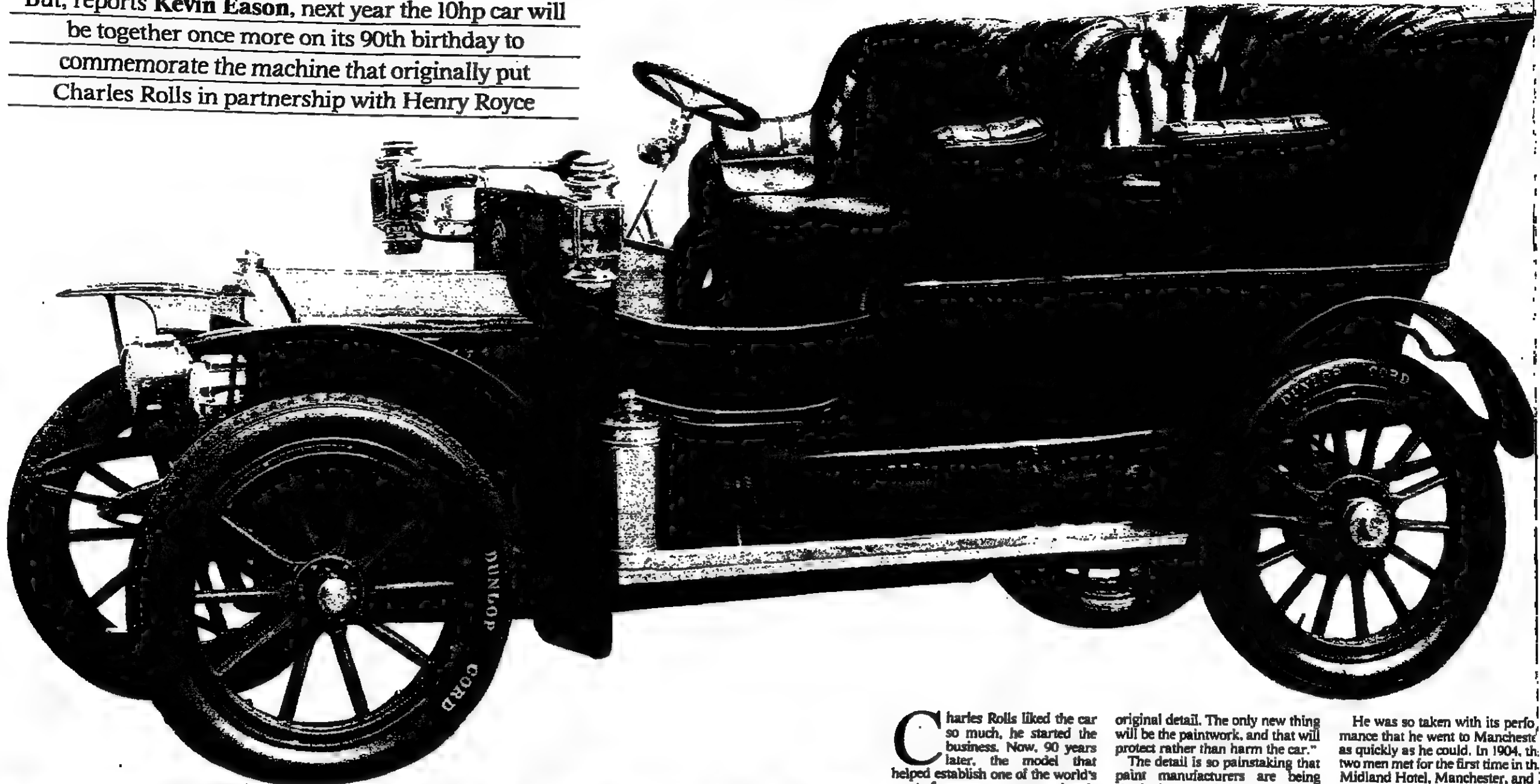
Page 9



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

Stripped: model that made Rolls-Royce

But, reports Kevin Eason, next year the 10hp car will be together once more on its 90th birthday to commemorate the machine that originally put Charles Rolls in partnership with Henry Royce



Charles Rolls liked the car so much, he started the business. Now, 90 years later, the model that helped establish one of the world's most famous car companies is being restored to original condition. It is also the model that convinced Rolls that he had spotted a rare talent when he first met Henry Royce.

The 10hp model is one of only three which survive as emblems of the earliest days of Rolls-Royce. As it stands in the restoration works of P and A Wood in Essex, the bare wooden shell is hardly recognisable as a car, let alone a Rolls-Royce; only the gleaming brass radiator serves as a familiar symbol.

But as much as £50,000 and a year's work will restore the 10hp to the condition it was in when Sydney Gammell, an Aberdeen doctor, bought his dark-green four-seater in February, 1907. Dr Gammell adored his Rolls-Royce so much he could not bear to see it sold or scrapped when he thought its useful life was over in 1920.

His doughty daughter decided it should be given back to Rolls-Royce and drove it from Aberdeen to the company's original Cooke Street factory in Manchester — no mean feat in days when even major roads were rough and ready tracks and the car was open to the elements.

Rolls-Royce has kept the car since, but decided to return it to pristine condition in time for its 90th birthday — a job easier proposed than done, according to Andrew Wood. His team has stripped every nut, bolt and washer from the car while he and twin brother, Paul, have scoured records and archives for details of the car's 13 years away from the company.

"The car has to be as original as we can possibly keep it," says Andrew. "It would be easy to put new parts on to the car, but that would not be the original 10hp that Henry Royce built. So we restore every part we can, keeping all the

original detail. The only new thing will be the paintwork, and that will protect rather than harm the car."

The detail is so painstaking that paint manufacturers are being checked to see if they can supply paint from the period. Connolly, the family firm that has supplied leather for Rolls-Royce from the start, dug deep into its vaults to find an original sample of black leather.

The small, dusty rectangle — a hide thicker and coarser than those used today — arrived at Wood's showroom by courier with a covering letter from Connolly director Anthony Hussey, which said: "It is like gold dust so please don't cut it and don't lose it, or a spell will fall on you and your stitching will never run straight." The threat was enough: Andrew Wood handed the piece immediately to a courier from Rolls-Royce who was instructed to take it by limousine to Crewe, keeping it in sight all the way.

The Wood brothers are the world's foremost experts on Rolls-Royce restoration, six years ago completing the legendary 1907 Silver Ghost — now insured for £15 million — with its silver and brass bodywork. Their devotion to detail is astonishing and their love for the car shines like a beacon in the often cynical world of motoring.

"There were no cars like Rolls-Royces," says Andrew. "Royce was a genius, a brilliant engineer and the gap between these cars and other cars of their time was astonishing. The Silver Ghost was a huge step forward in its day."

The 10hp is not so highly valued, but plays a great part in the company legend. A 10-horsepower car was the first model built by Royce, a Manchester engineer, in 1903. Admittedly based on a Deauville he had imported, Royce introduced a series of clever innovations to improve performance. Rolls, a wealthy adventurer, was selling imported cars in London when he came across the little 10hp.

He was so taken with its performance that he went to Manchester as quickly as he could. In 1904, the two men met for the first time in the Midland Hotel, Manchester, and a new company, Rolls-Royce, was formed. The 10hp assembly line at Cooke Street only ran until 1906, so the Wood brothers are mystified how the doctor managed to get a model new from the factory in 1907. It might have been the last of the line, or made as a favour by Royce.

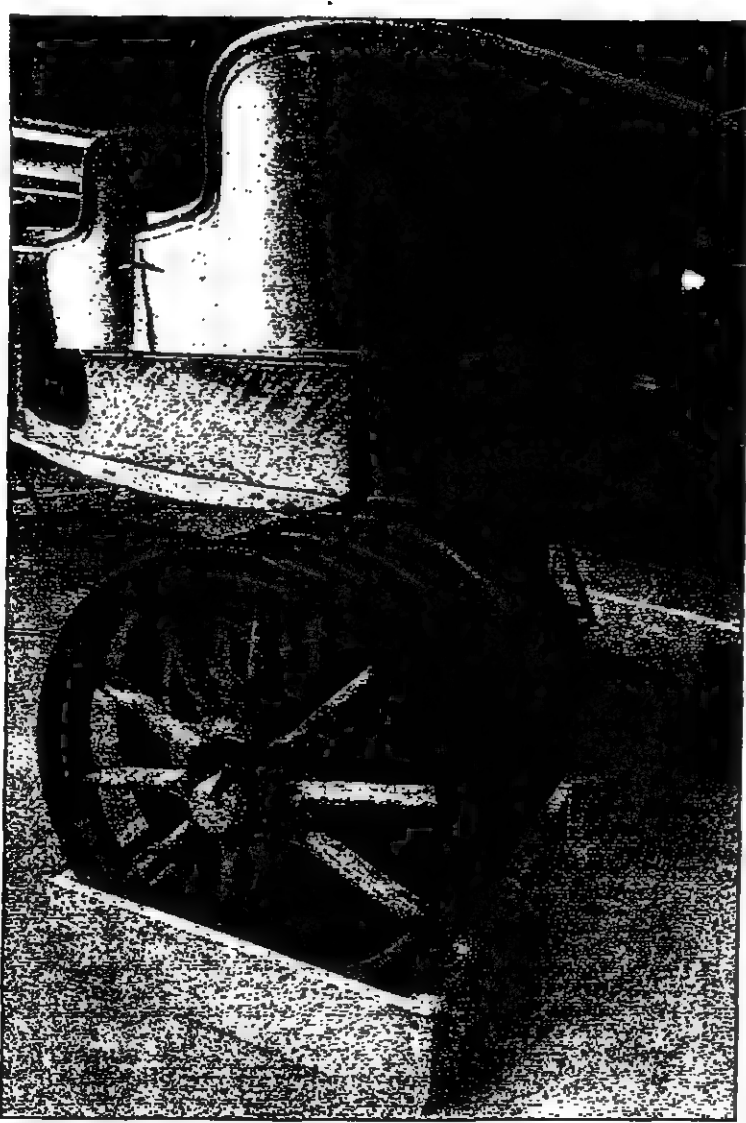
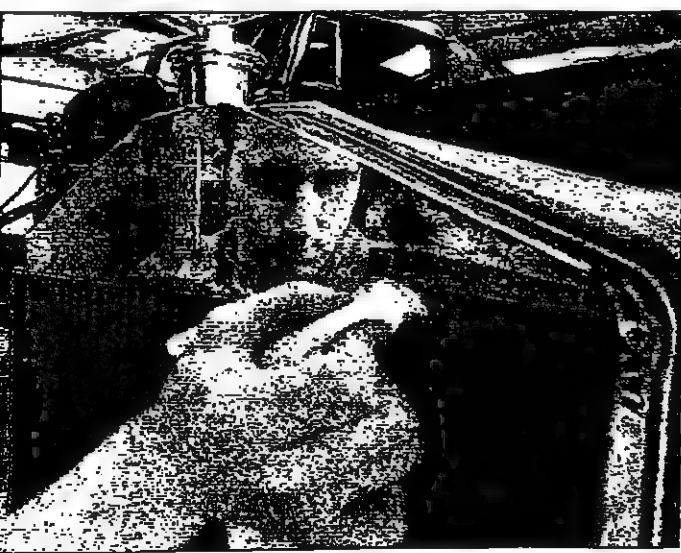
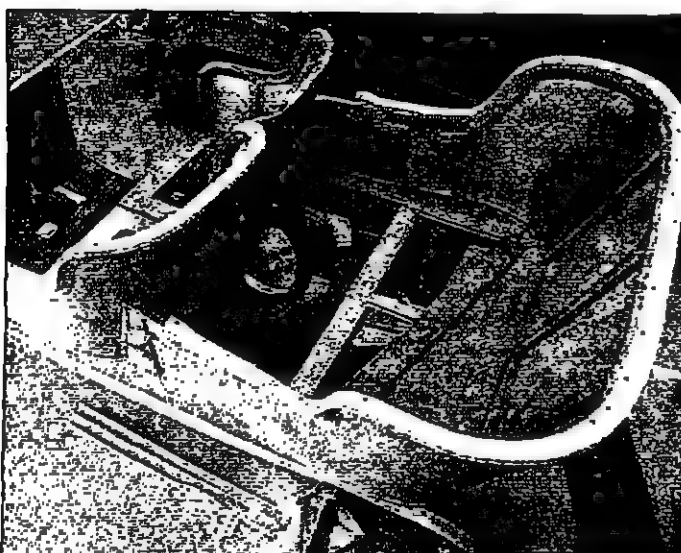
In any event, it is an excellent example of Royce's distinctive engineering style and ingenuity: at a time when differentials were almost unknown, for example, the 10hp had one; the lubricating oil was made to send exact droplets of oil in sequences of between one and eight a minute to the clutch, gearbox and engine, and the cast iron pistons in the two cylinders: unusually work in opposition, with one up when the other is down, a principle Royce believed gave him better balance and smoothness.

The handmade ash frame, and steel springs are among the components that Wood's craftsmen are having to restore, also by hand, over painstaking hours. The nearside rear door is a crafty dummy; to get on to the rear seats, the front seat actually tips up and outwards, an unusual feature rarely seen on any car and now working again.

Today, the 10hp is little more than a collection of bits, spread over Wood's workshop at Great Dunmow and Rolls-Royce's own factory at Crewe, where craftsmen are restoring the engine.

By February though, it will be gleaming and ready for a sentimental journey being planned by Rolls-Royce executives back to Aberdeen for a visit to doctor Gammell's family to say thanks for the donation of one of the company's most historic cars.

Life with a Rolls, page 3



The 10hp model in unrestored condition, top, is now unrecognisable as it undergoes complete refurbishment for its anniversary

Forget when it was built.
Consider who built it.



Mercedes-Benz
Used Cars

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

CAR 96

Sue Baker joined the longest-ever cavalcade of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys, at the smartest rally in Europe

Normandy's smartest invasion

Chandeliers at breakfast, smoked salmon and champagne for lunch, and dinner in the marbled splendour of a casino. Three barons, a count, three lieutenant-colonels and a deputy lord lieutenant among the drivers: this was no ordinary car rally.

Deauville, the Normandy resort, was host to the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club's Euro Rally. The manicured town was put into suspended animation last week by a 176-car procession, the longest cavalcade of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars ever staged.

With French police in squads of Peugeot's shepherding the procession, the trundling queue stretched all the way from the lavish seafront Hotel Royal, which was the rally's headquarters, to the Hippodrome, where never before had so much horsepower been held in such restraint as the cars lined up to be judged for their meticulous perfection in a concours d'elegance.

Before the cavalcade began, the talk was not of records, but of derring-do and near disasters. Just as the rally started, a British Corniche owner faxed headquarters saying his car had collided with a Peugeot in Basingstoke, and as he couldn't come could he please have a refund.

An embarrassed Frenchman arrived with one entire side of his Silver Shadow mortally blentished. He confessed to driving off the road after falling asleep at the wheel. A German owner sported a pristine new hood on his beautiful dark green 1938 Bentley Tourer and had a stirring tale to tell of the original hood being ripped right off by wind roaring through the car's open sides as it came by train from Berlin.

He engaged the services of a Cologne coachbuilder, found by chance in the phone book, who agreed to work through the night to fashion a replacement. It was completed at 3am and the owner departed by road to Normandy, only to have a tyre burst on the autobahn near Aachen.

The mishaps continued. Just as the cavalcade in Deauville was about to begin, a woman driving a 1955 Bentley S-series Continental collided with a Renault. Pride took a bigger denting than the car. Potentially the most disastrous incident of all was the event's nearest miss: AX 201, the



The 176-car Deauville rally was marred by a collision between a Bentley and a local Renault, and the original Silver Ghost was nearly smashed by a Citroën

original Silver Ghost, the most famous Rolls-Royce of them all and the most valuable car in the world — insured for £15 million — was the guest star of the cavalcade but narrowly avoided catastrophe when a lame-brained Citroën driver swung suddenly into its path.

Even then, the Silver Ghost was making sounds like the clapping hooves of a slightly arthritic Shetland pony. Despite liberal spraying of water, AX 201's cherry wood wheels were suffering the unwelcome effects of dryness in the fine weather and were clicking their contraction.

Deauville was temporarily full of Mr Toads from nine nationalities, and there was much jostling between drivers. A Frenchman, whose 1953 R-Type Standard Saloon sported a diving amphibian mascot, was teased by a British chum: "So now you're a frog with a toad on his bonnet."

A lively contingent from Essex used the running board of South-end stockbroker Ben Grew's 1923 Barker-bodied 20HP Tourer as a bench seat for their picnic lunch. The car's original owner was the Nizan of Hyderabad and it has a flamboyant horn shaped like a boa constrictor. On a previous

rally, Grew revealed, the car caught fire on a train in Italy. The repair bill was £19,000.

arked alongside was a 1928 New Phantom Boat-tail Tourer, 19-feet long with a massive pointed tail. Its owner, Hornchurch builders' merchant Malcolm Law, joked that the car represented "a hell of a lot of bricks and blocks". He and wife Josie have been club members for 19 years. "It keeps us poor but it keeps us happy. Our entire social life revolves around this silly old, ruddy car," he said wearily.

Law also suffered a mishap on a previous rally. He backed the car into a lake. "I'd been drinking champagne. After we hauled it out some wag stuck a notice on it saying 'boat trips every hour'." Despite their sybaritic image, some of the early cars are sparse on creature comforts. Liz Field wore a lavish hooded silver fox coat over a ski suit and wellies for the drive from London to Deauville in her husband's 1912 Silver Ghost. She recently travelled to America for a weekend seminar in Pennsylvania called "Ghosts for Gals", a kind of automotive survival course organised by an

American owner's wife for other women whose husbands own early Rolls-Royces.

She says that when they married, her husband did not want children, so they struck a deal. "I could have children if he could have a Rolls-Royce. So I had two children but now he's got six Rolls-Royces." This one, nicknamed Bertie, has a formidable thirst. "It's not so much a question of how many miles per gallon, it's about two hours to a tankful." It is just as well that its owner's business is thriving. He manufactures printing machines. They print money.



Lily livery: the Bentley frog emblem

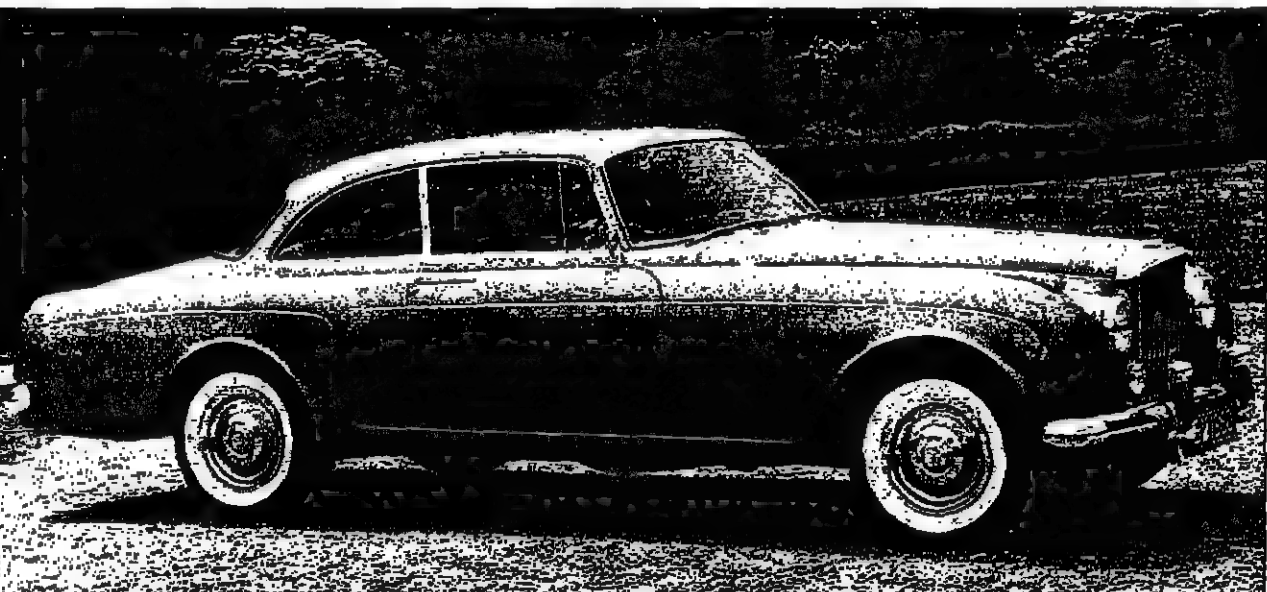
Top club on four wheels

HOME TO the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club is The Hunt House, an imposing 1600s building in the Northamptonshire village of Paulerspury. Built as the headquarters of Grafton Hunt, it now houses the original factory documentation of more than 100 of the world's most opulent cars. The club believes that more than 75 per cent of all ever made survive today, and the club official custodian of the Rolls-Royce archive from 1904 to the Silver Shadow.

The building's traditional character has been converted into a comprehensive modern facilities. Discreetly concealed behind the old stable block, which has been converted into a comprehensive equipped car workshop, is a 250-seat lecture hall. The stable yard has been gravelled and display area.

THE CLUB has nearly 8,500 members, a third of them overseas. You do not have to own a Rolls-Royce or Bentley to be a member, most do. The annual meeting, held this year at Althorp, is the largest gathering of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars in the world.

It is an immensely wealthy club. Under the stewardship of Eric Barrass, a retired Lieutenant-Colonel who was club secretary for more than 30 years, it has amassed considerable wealth, including a headquarters valued at £1.5 million and assets of around £500,000 in the bank.



Cars like this Bentley S2 Continental are costly to fix, but well-cared-for ones last hundreds of thousands of miles

The facts and figures are a glittering array of temptation: 6.75-litre V8 engine, parchment hide upholstery, burr walnut measured in square feet, air conditioning, lambswool rugs, craftsmanship throughout its 17ft 5in length. Behind its colour-coded, steel-mesh radiator grille, twin fans turn like aircraft propellers.

This is the Bentley Eight. The price? No, not £100,000-plus: a good, mid-1980s, one-owner model could be yours for £25,000. Just to get that into perspective, a new Ford Scorpio 24-valve Ultima is £29,345, a Rover Sterling £29,086, and the cheapest 7-series BMW, £35,850.

Cheap to buy — but not to run

Stuart Birch finds the real price of a second-hand Rolls or Bentley

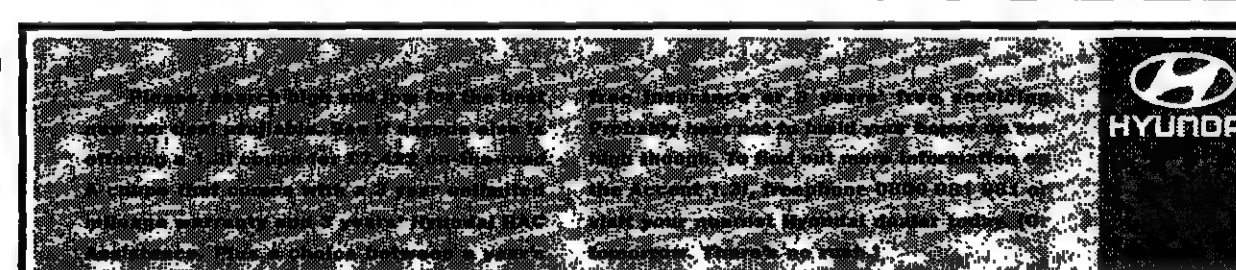
For example — the bill might rise to £2,000. A complete Rolls-Royce or Bentley exhaust is typically £1,000 but Paul says it is unusual for the whole system to need replacing at once. A new set of door seals costs around £500 fitted.

Fuel consumption for the Eight is typically 10mpg around town, 18mpg on the motorway, he says. "Rolls-Royce engines are designed to use oil. Typical consumption is 500 miles to a litre, so it's worth checking regularly, but post-1987 cars are better."

"For many people, though, it is an emotional thing; the work does not simply equate to cash. They've lived with these cars for many years and they're part of the family, like a house or fine furniture."

Another customer was given a Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III Mulliner Park Ward fixed-head coupe in 1964 by proud parents when he graduated from Harvard. He later parted company with it but recently found it again, bought it and is having it restored. That is also costing a six-figure sum.

Remarkable sights await visitors to the P and A Wood showroom. On the day I called, its contents included a 1986 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit at £28,500; a 1981 version at £17,500 and a 1976 Bentley T (18,000 miles from new) at £26,500.



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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

CAR 96

Kevin Eason reports on junior karting, a competitive family sport that can lead to motor racing's top le



Formula One driver David Coulthard offers trackside tips to 14-year-old Luke Hines (left); father and son team Ian and Ben Franklin, aged 12 (centre); and aspiring racers show off their cornering skills

Racing stars of the future start with a kart

Faces clustered around the £60,000 motorhome waiting to see the star driver emerge from his brief moments of rest between qualifying and final. They gawped as the door opened and gasped as he wiped his eyes, searching for the food and drink to sustain him through the race: a packet of salt and vinegar crisps and a bottle of Lucozade.

Little Lewis Hamilton is only 11 years old and already he is a star at the race track.

Lewis looks as good as Muhammed Ali but moves like a bee and stings like one too: only in karting three years, he is British champion, Formula Cadet champion, Five Nations champion, STP champion and TV Kartmaster champion. He wrapped up his 35-race season last weekend at the McLaren Mercedes Champions of the Future event where he was so far ahead on points, he could afford not to race.

Just as well, because his kart broke down on lap one — which gave dad the problem of fixing it. Tony Hamilton, a computer consultant, got the five-horsepower 60cc kart — enough to get Lewis's jockey weight to 60mph — to the chequered flag first enough times this year.

Next season, a team of specialists will take over because Lewis, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, is on the track to the Big Time with sponsors queuing to pay for a season which costs around £30,000 to keep an 11-year-old in winning ways. Karting is one of the biggest junior sports in the country, attracting hundreds of wannabe Damon Hills and David Coulthards.

Lewis already has the financial help which means he will have a competitive kart as he moves through the ranks where top teams have pit garages as busy and sophisticated as any adult race outfit. But for dozens of drivers,



Karting king, aged 11: Lewis Hamilton has swept the board

karting is a family event where dad does the repairs and mum makes sure the race overalls are clean, the helmet polished. Mum and dad scrimp and save to buy the £2,000 karts, the overalls, helmet, gloves, spare parts, tyres and transport; on race day, mum becomes pit crew to push the kart to the grid while dad worries about strategy.

The coolest people trackside are the kids themselves, many experienced racers with brains as icy as Schumacher's and skills that would terrify ordinary road drivers twice their age.

At Buckmore Park in Kent last weekend, Ian Franklin busily repaired a shattered brake drum for his 12-year-old son, Ben. Mum

insisted the brakes should be perfect because Ben broke his arm in a crash last year which put him out of the sport for five months.

"I can't watch," said Karen Franklin, as she sat in the family camper van playing cards with daughter Joanna, who is ten. "After that accident, I am always terrified when he goes out on the track."

No wonder, for these junior karters drive like maniacs, careering into corners, correcting oversteer with flicks of the wheel, powering out into straights and overtaking with no hint of fear.

Coulthard — former karting champion, now McLaren Formula One driver — whose own sponsored drivers Niki Cleland and Ryan Dalziel took part — says karting teaches drivers how to overtake. "You learn about how to set up the kart, how to overtake, how to control the car — all things you need later in racing. It's a great way to start because it is pure racing."

Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, sponsored the event to encourage the stars of the future. He says: "This series was our way of giving something back to the sport and a way of encouraging the kids who in ten years' time will be Formula One stars, we hope."

A dream shared by children like Lewis, who already has his heart set on being a star. Yet he is so seasoned that he was unabashed by rubbing shoulders with Coulthard or being congratulated by Dennis, a potential future employer. "I love driving and I want to get into Formula One," he says in a clear bid for Coulthard's seat. "It's great fun. Better than school."

Absolutely: the uniform's cuter, the admiration deeper... and David Coulthard says the pay is better. Stick at it Lewis; that McLaren car beckons.



Kart contenders get last-minute advice on the starting grid from team managers — mostly their dads

There blood on the track

Karting stays blood, according to Martin Hines, who visited me to join a kart race at the McLaren-Mercedes Champions of the Future event.

I foolishly thought for fun, but not for a moment that I would be to-wheel with David Hines (I passed him in 1 was co-opted by Ambler, Tracy Mac and Mark Watson their Tag Heuer team Enthusiasm bubbled entered the briefing until we saw the com The McLaren team: Coulthard, McLaren boss and former ra Dennis, and Hines world Kart champio there was David Les ish Touring Car dr



Ron Dennis and M Hines swap notes

Honda, and Steve F European truck cham I knew we were in 1 minute the helmet out: we were dressed rowed suits (mine was for Desperate Dan) ar met: Coulthard cam his own bright yellow made lid. Dennis dres the Black Shadow, me in all-black.

As the laps ticked I discovered the gap be expert and novice. Cou was cocky. Dennis a der the wheel seemingly demonstrate a few Fo One skills. When we nice laps behind, I figu would have to bow to g skill. But so too did and Coulthard. They second to the Mobil 1

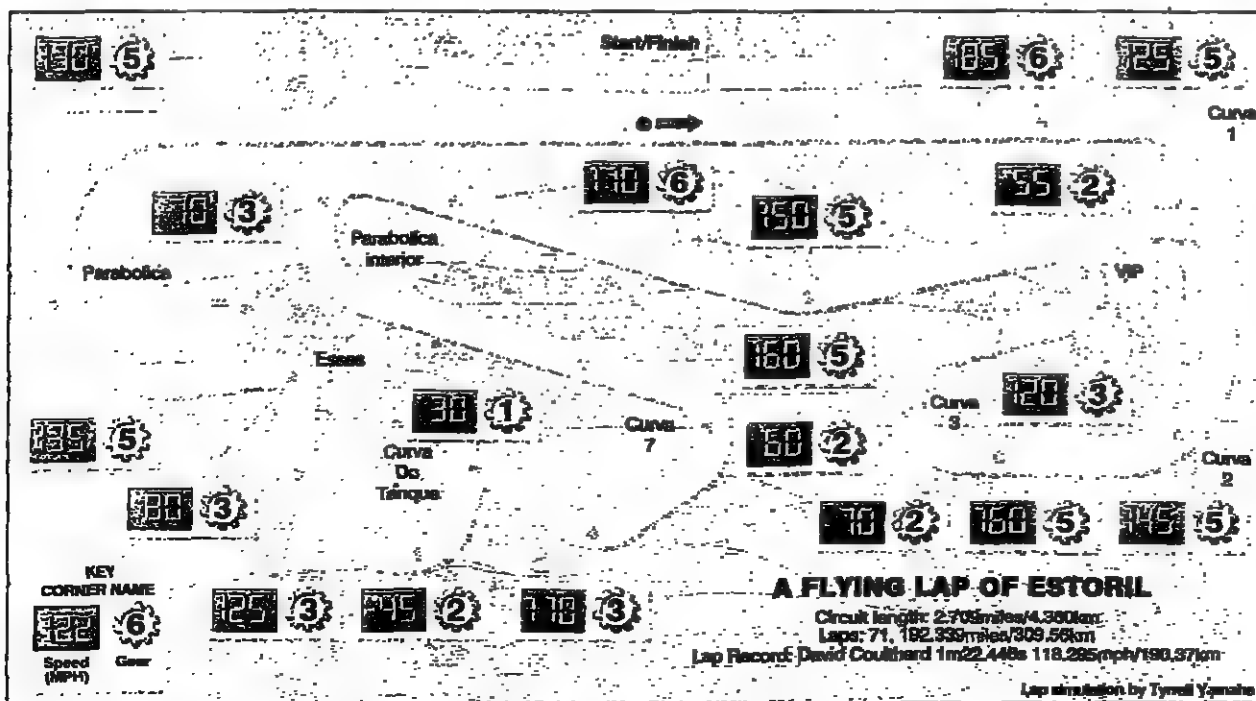
How heroic Hill could lose the title



The appointment of Heinz-Harald Frentzen to the coveted Williams drive has bewildered the casual grand prix viewer, for his is not a name that we have seen fighting for podium finishes this season. As Williams lines up for Monza, his confidence in Frentzen lies in reviewing his performances over the past few seasons taking into account the modest competitiveness of his Sauber car.

Last year in Portugal, Frentzen demonstrated the form that impressed Frank Williams by qualifying fifth and, after ultimately starting at the back of the field, storming through to finish sixth. He will be hoping to repeat this sensational form tomorrow to prove that Williams has made the right decision.

Meanwhile, Damon Hill will be hoping to prove otherwise in his efforts to leave as 1996 World Champion. It is not a time for heroics from Hill, however, for with a 13-point lead over Villeneuve, the championship should be his providing he finishes in the points in the next two races. With Williams' reliability being pretty good, as happened



It is Williams's number-two driver Jacques Villeneuve who has everything to gain and nothing to lose providing Hill is still on the track. Last year David Coulthard took his maiden grand prix victory here as Damon's teammate, and given Williams's likely superiority on the fast-cornered track, Villeneuve must have a good chance of taking that win he needs, cruelly wrenching the championship from Hill's clutches.

With a hat-trick of victories in his sights, though, Michael Schumacher will try to take advantage of the fact that strategy is complicated here, perhaps compensating for his Ferrari being less competitive on this high tyre-wear Estoril circuit.

But it might be worth watch-

successor, as Frentzen's car is nowhere near as competitive as the Williams. It is, however, still an astounding machine, as I discovered with a test drive at the new Austria circuit recently.

My six-year grand prix career ended in 1989, after which I spent a couple of years test-driving McLaren's Formula One car, so it was five years ago that I last drove a contemporary Formula One car. At the time they were powered by 3.5-litre engines and most still had mechanical gear levers.

Instant impressions were of light steering and driving ease at modest speeds. Push the accelerator deeper and the torrent of waiting power on the 3-litre just goes on and on. I kept thinking that it must be

orange, then red, dashboard light signals the need for a new gear. Performance is dominated by this amazing engine's appetite for revs. A road car engine peaks at about 6500rpm; my 1989 Tyrrell's at 11,000 rpm.

Keeping a modern grand prix car on the ball means holding the revs between 13,000 and 16,000rpm. And when you do, the performance is shattering: 0-150mph in about seven seconds, for example. After first, the remainder of the six gears are selected by pulling on the right hand flipper, and when you do so your foot stays hard on the accelerator. With a minimal jerk the next gear is instantly engaged.

The power of the brakes is

engine. Time after time I would have to accelerate into the corner again, having braked too early and never did I get near the suicidally late, but correct, braking points.

At least you don't have to concentrate on beautifully synchronised heel and toe downchanges any more; each pull on the left-hand flipper changes down to the next gear, with a perfect rev of the engine, automatically.

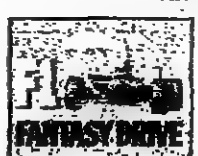
With so much downforce the cars are phenomenally stable so you can weave around with gay abandon at 185mph. Of course cornering grip is immense, and with no roll and light steering, great skill, courage and familiarity are required to come near to finding the limits, and that certainly wasn't going to be achieved in

Win a day on the track worth £165

Today The Times, in association with Everyman Motor Racing at Mallory Park, offers readers the chance to test their driving skills with a prize worth £165.

The winner can choose from a wide range of driving activities, including racing cars, rally cars, off-road cars, plus he or she can tackle a tank and military vehicles. Two runners-up receive a pair of tickets to any race meeting of their choice — and there are 40 to choose from — at Mallory Park, Leicestershire.

All you have to do to enter is call our competition hotline 0891-40 50 06 with your answer to the following question:



Who won the 1996 Italian Grand Prix? The winners will be chosen at random in all correct entries received by midnight on Wednesday September 25, 1996.

● Brian Martin of Leicester, won the 1st drive competition of September 7.

CALL 0891-40 50 06

If you would like to enjoy a day out at Mallory Park, call 01455 841 670 for information.

The Italian Grand Prix has produced a new leader in the race for an £10,000 jackpot. David Rokov from Bracknell, Berkshire, heads the table on 7.353 points after the performance of his team, Richie's Terrors, at Monza. Former leader Chris Dare drops to 16th position. Below are the top 16 positions after the 13 races in our competition. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count in our game.

F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 13 RACES

01 7,353	RKV16	D Rokov	04 7,268	Richie's Terrors	J Richardson
02 7,322	Aces	D Maynor	04 7,268	Chicken Roosters	S Maurice
03 7,299	J Hunt U	J Hunt	04 7,268	Dream Team 8	D Springate
04 7,268	The Simpletons	M Sim	04 7,268	Phoney	D Park
04 7,268	Scab Car	R Howells	13 7,262	KO16	D Rokov
04 7,268	The Great 8	M Neathan	13 7,262	Del Wall	K Walton
04 7,268	Boy Racer	J Moore	15 7,249	Cwywy	R Groves
04 7,268	Cowgirls Racing	R Wheeler	16 7,235	Locust	C Dare

To improve your team you can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is allowed in the transfer period. More than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

CALL 0891-405 032
FROM NOON WED SEPTEMBER 25
UNTIL NOON THUR OCTOBER 10

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Italian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday September 25.

CALL 0891-774 734 24-HRS

USED CAR BRIEF



Ford's engineering chaps have not solved the problem of what we alleged experts describe as "scuttle shake". In

Insurance: group 15.
Price: £17,145.



Lion's successful pride

The top ten best sellers to August this year are: 1, Ford Fiesta; 2, Ford Escort; 3, Ford Mondeo; 4, Vauxhall Vectra; 5, Vauxhall Astra; 6, Vauxhall Corsa; 7, Rover 400; 8, Peugeot 306; 9, Renault Clio; 10, Fiat Punto.



The new Peugeot 306 Roadster is capable of 120mph

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To order your personalised registration first choose from one of the 53 special numbers to place after the initial 'P' eg P10 (P1 carries a price premium). You now have the first half of your registration. Then add virtually any three letters (except I Q and Z) to complete the registration. Have a few alternatives ready in case your first choice is not available. Next call the Registration Hotline. You can pay by Visa, Access or cheque. Prices start from £399*. Even if you've already bought a new vehicle it's not too late to buy a personalised registration. Buy yours today quoting Ref 3786

Many B, J, K, L, M, N and some A and H prefixes are still available. Following recent price reductions, all start from £250* (except B prefixes which start from £399*). Numbers 1-20 are available with all prefixes. J, K, L, M and N prefixes have an even wider selection of 53 special numbers.

** Inclusive of VAT and LPI arrangement fee*

IF IT IS YOUR INTENTION TO MIS-STATE OR MISREPRESENT YOUR REGISTRATION, IN ANY WAY DO NOT BUY the numbers shown and are examples used are for illustrative purpose only. DVLA reserves the right to withhold certain registrations, some of which may be offered for sale at auction. Numbers are sold subject to the Sale of Registration Mark Regulations. Registrations available for purchase are those within the scope of the DVLA sale scheme Figure combinations outside the internet scheme and Custom Mark schemes are not available Registrations cannot be used to make a vehicle look younger than it is

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THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

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هكذا من الأصل

Can I beat the thieves without busting myself?

A Could be. Such as these tips: always park where there is light and there are people passing, never in dark corners. Never leave valuables — briefcases, telephones — on seats where they are tempting targets. Make sure the car is locked all round if you have no central-locking system and never leave the keys in the vehicle, not even when you stop for petrol. That is just an invitation for trouble. And always drive with the doors locked. Apart from that little lot, enjoy your heavy motoring.

Not that thieves should get that close anyway, for Melanie's

Having been a victim of a ram-raider at her shop, where thieves got away with £20,000 worth of stock, she has learnt the hard way.

"I know all the weak points a car thief can spot and I make sure I don't give them a single opportunity," she says. Melanie has a ritual for locking up her car before

she leaves it, removing the stereo, hiding valuables and locking belongings in the boot.

"It's not just about keeping the BMW secure, though," she adds. "There are several features designed to look after me as well."

If she returns to her car late at

The keyfob (left) activates the system housed in the boot (above)

Melanie is also looking to use the system on cold winter mornings. "I'll be able to lean out of the

ings. "I'll be able to lean out of the window, start the engine but keep it locked and alarmed, so that when I leave for work the car will be nice and warm and the windows defrosted."

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950	PRESSAT 100, Wipac 100, Automatic, 3.3
950	PRINCE 100, Dodge Grand, 17,000 miles
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950	SHAWAN 2.0SL, Dodge Grand, 17,000 miles
950	GOLF 1.3 CL, Dodge Grand, 17,000 miles

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Drier

SAFETY AND HEALTH: READ BEFORE
USE. FOR INFORMATION, SEE
SAFETY DATA SHEET.

Peregrine Cleveland-Peck discovers why the woman featured in Rover's new campaign loves her Saab

The model advert for driving

STEERING COLUMN

In spite of being confined to a wheelchair, top model Shannon Murray loves driving. Shannon was on course for a big career five years ago when she broke her neck in a diving accident. But she has refused to allow that to prevent her rise to the top of the modelling industry, so much so that she was selected to feature in the advertisements for the new Rover Metro Kensington. Shannon, who is 20, has now decided on a career change and is taking the first year of a law degree. Eventually she wants to use her knowledge of the law to work in the film industry.

How did you first learn to drive?

I was 16 (when you are registered disabled you can take your test a year beforehand — it is one of the few advantages). I was amazed at how relaxed I felt behind the wheel. I think it must be something to do with the sense of freedom and equality that a disabled person can find when driving: that was probably why I passed first time.

What was your first car?

A new black Volkswagen Golf GL which I got in January 1992. I adored it. When I bought a new car recently, saying goodbye to my Golf was like witnessing the end of an era — my teenage years.

What car do you drive now and why?

A Saab 900S. When I was choosing my new car I wanted it to look sleek, stylish and quite sporty. I also wanted it to be powerful but safe — particularly as I have to use the motorway a lot to drive to photo shoots. It also happens to be one of the few cars that can fit an entire wheelchair into the boot. I have had some modifications done: to the right of the steering wheel there is a lever which acts as an accelerator and brake. I also have a knob on the steering wheel which allows me to steer with one hand.

Do you enjoy driving?

Most definitely yes. I love it. It



Shannon Murray with her specially adapted Saab: "I wanted a car that looked sleek, stylish and sporty, and was powerful and safe"

provides me with me complete independence and a sense of freedom. If I am ever feeling bored or low I just get in the car, turn on the CD player and drive.

What is your dream car?

An Aston Martin DB7 convertible with a leather interior.

What is your most hated car?

Minicabs — especially the ones you sit in wondering if they are actually roadworthy.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Flinging.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Apart from Sunday drivers, young men who attempt to personalise their cars. You know the ones: black windows, alloy wheels, stickers and ultraviolet lighting under the car's body — yuck.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Well it was not in my car, but in a car I was modelling for recently, the new Rover Metro. I had to sit in the front seat with the windows open (in the middle of freezing December), smiling. I was told not to breathe to prevent the steam coming out of my mouth. I then

had to drive around with a TV crew in the car while glancing at the camera, talking to the interviewer and ensuring that the cameraman did not fall out of the back window.

Have you ever had any points on your licence?

No.

What do you listen to on your stereo while driving?

On a Saturday afternoon I listen to the football on Capital Gold; the rest of the time it depends on my mood, my journey and the company I have in the car. It varies from Chopin to Ella Fitzgerald to a Ministry of Sound compact disc.

If you were the Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Two things: I would pass a parliamentary Bill to ensure that all public transport was made wheelchair-accessible, and create a separate disabled orange-badge scheme with parking advantages just for the wheelchair-bound.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Peugeot advertisement where a woman, who we later find out to be the male character's wife, meets him in an underground car park and exclaims: "Nice car... want to show me what it can do?"

Help for poor cars stuck out on the drive

Dawn of the incredible expanding garages

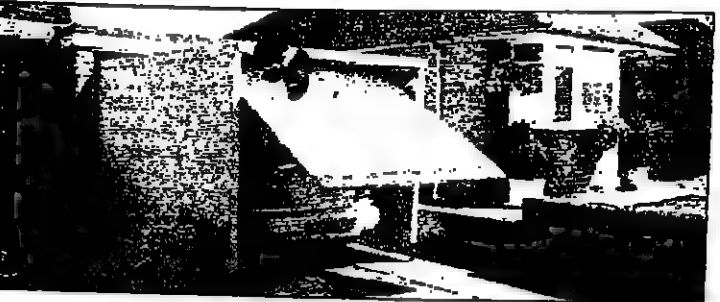
Every motorist proud of their new car dreads approaching their garage and finding it is not going to fit into the hole provided, writes Simon Hacker. And sometimes lawn mowers and assorted junk take up so much room that the car becomes a second thought. Left to stand unattended on the drive, open to the weather and a target for thieves.

However, help is at hand. Richard Bladok of Senator Designs has come up with the incredible growing garage.

The Senator Unit is a series of steel sheets, which concertina when not needed and are hidden inside an ordinary brick garage. You just have to park and blip the remote: the garage does the rest. The up-and-over door opens, and the steel sheets extend to enclose the car. When the car is fully covered, the garage door drops down behind it.

A part-time garage stretching half-way down your drive may not please the neighbours, although Senator is working on a set of acceptable colours. Bladok says: "In most cases the unit needs no approval because it requires no building work and isn't fixed to the ground."

Senator Designs, PO Box 253, Gloucester GL3 3YF. Telephone: 01452 371493.



Up, over and away: the steel concertina envelops your car

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

FIVE CLASSIC CARS TO BE WON



PLUS EVERY ENTRANT WILL RECEIVE AN EXCLUSIVE LIMITED-EDITION CLASSIC SPORTS CAR FIRST DAY COVER FREE

HOW TO ENTER

The Times, in association with The Sunday Times and the Royal Mail, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the British motor industry by giving readers the chance to win one of the following five cars:

- Triumph TR3A, 1960 ● MG TC, 1949 ● Morgan Plus Four
- Austin Healey 100/4, 1954 ● Jaguar XK 120, 1948

PLUS, every reader of The Times and The Sunday Times entering our competition can receive an exclusive, limited-edition First Day Cover, with details of five classic marques of postwar sports cars, free of charge.

● If you are a Times reader you can enter by sending the completed form, below, with seven differently-numbered tokens from The Times together with one of the tokens published in The Sunday Times. Readers of The Sunday Times can enter by sending the two Sunday Times tokens together with three differently-numbered tokens from The Times.

FREE limited-edition first day covers

The first day cover, pictured right, has been produced by the Royal Mail exclusively for Times Newspapers. It features five stamps which will be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p.

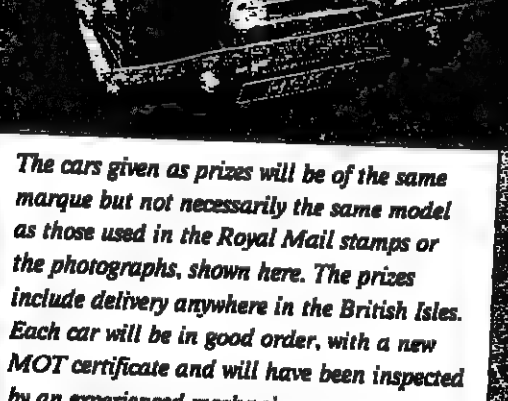
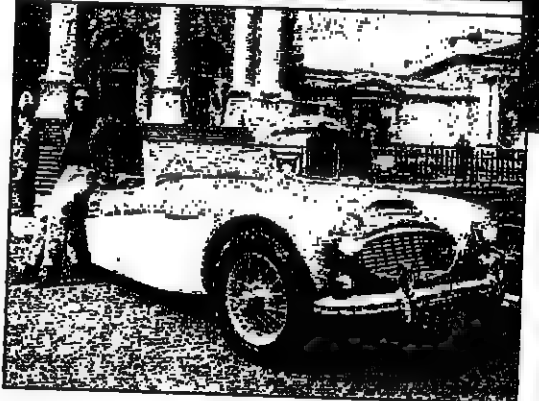
Royal Mail decided to mark British motoring's celebration of two centuries this year with a set of five special stamps. The first event of 100 years ago

was the Locomotives on Highways Act 1896 which allowed the Local Government Board to raise the speed limit for cars from 4mph to 12mph. The British motor industry also began in 1896 with the



registration of Daimler to manufacture British-built cars in Coventry.

● Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Monday to Friday); and most Post Offices — for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744



The cars given as prizes will be of the same make but not necessarily the same model as those used in the Royal Mail stamps or the photographs, shown here. The prizes include delivery anywhere in the British Isles. Each car will be in good order, with a new MOT certificate and will have been inspected by an experienced mechanic

THE TIMES/THE SUNDAY TIMES CLASSIC CAR COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

For your chance to win a classic sports car complete this coupon and post it with either: two tokens from The Sunday Times and three from The Times; or one from The Sunday Times and seven from The Times, to: Classic Sports Car Competition, Times Newspapers/Royal Mail, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 7ZD, to arrive by September 28, 1996. Tokens will appear each day in The Times until September 21. Tokens in The Sunday Times appear on September 8 and 15.

What was the speed limit for a light locomotive raised to in 1896? Tick answer a) ☐ 10mph b) ☐ 12mph c) ☐ 15mph

If I win the competition, the car I wish to own is (tick one box only):

- ☐ Triumph TR3A, 1960; ☐ MG TC, 1949;
- ☐ Austin Healey 100/4, 1954; ☐ Jaguar XK120, 1948;
- ☐ Morgan Plus Four. I have made this choice because:

(answer in no more than 12 words)

Please tick box if you wish to receive a limited-edition Classic Sports Car Royal Mail First Day Cover ☐

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☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies each week)?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further offers from Royal Mail, The Times or associated companies ☐

TERMS AND CONDITIONS Entrants must be 18 or over. Staff of Times Newspapers and Royal Mail and their families or agents are not permitted to enter. The winners of the cars will be the senders of the five correctly-completed entries deemed by the judges to have the most original tie-breakers. The prize does not include insurance or road tax. There is no cash alternative. Times Newspapers Limited is under no obligation to inform readers if their application is incorrect. Back copies for missing tokens can be supplied subject to usual charges.

CHANGING TIMES

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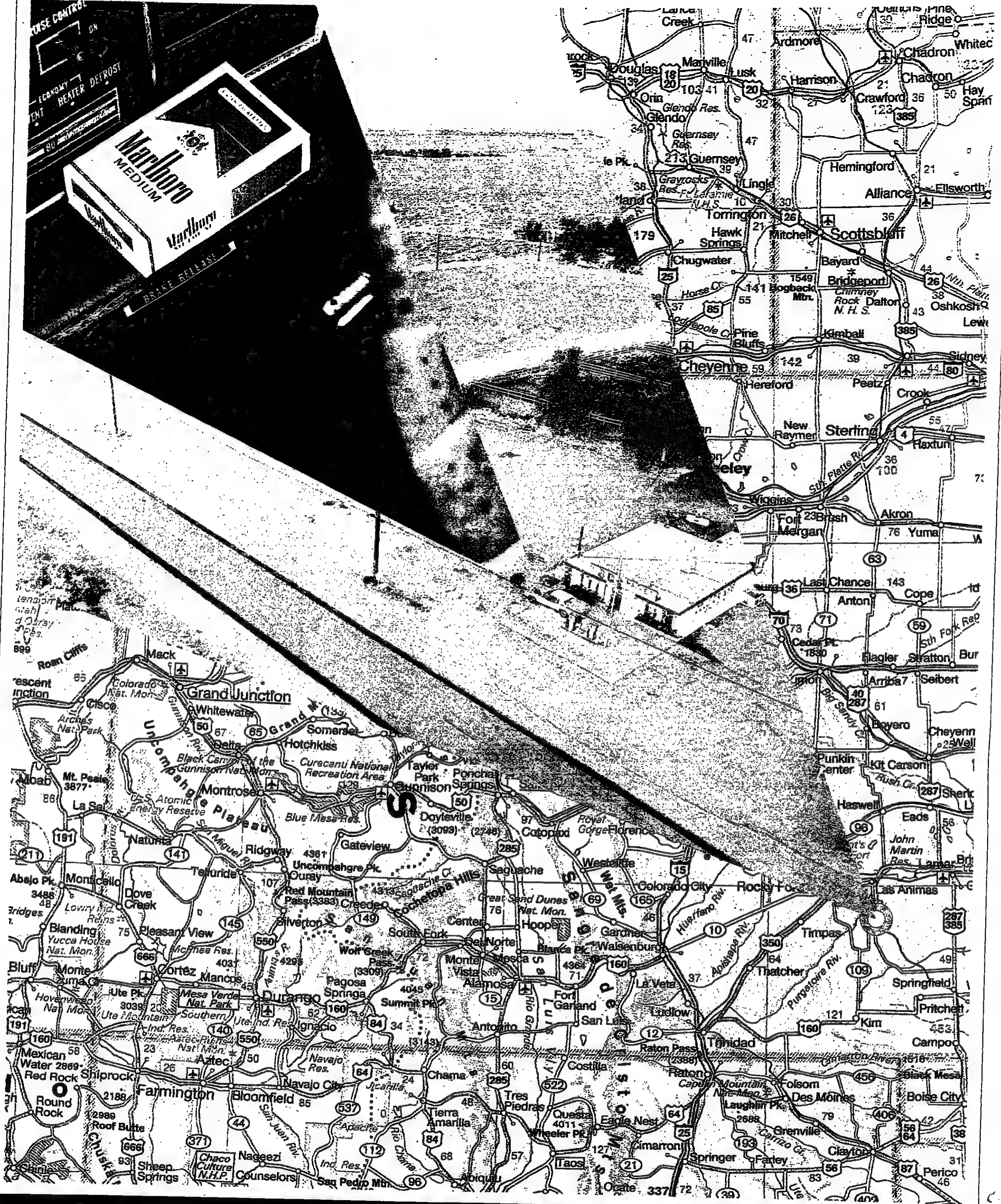
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MARLBORO MEDIUM. Somewhere in the middle of Marlboro Country.



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NEW IN PAPERBACK



Dismantling the literary establishment: Greer (1996)

SLIPSHOD SYLLS

By Germaine Greer

Penguin, £6.99

ISBN 0 14 07771 X

THIS is Germaine Greer under full sail, and as her guns are blazing, some shots are deadly, others witty. The sight remains as elegant as ever.

She advances two theses. The first, that mchave subjugated women ts, is hardy new, but I diligenge yields grim eence. She gives us Charleswin Phagiarising Anne ward, or Letitia Landon, whom

"Mr Murray said ps only should write poetry".

She throws up sorinvg-orating spray — Sinhu St John of Lydiard Tree, the poetess Delarivier lanley "ruined by a bigame marriage when still a dd", or Buckingham dying "dissipation and disappointment".

Other spray issaltier. Sappho, we read, ccd have

been "the Lesbian Women's Poetry Co-operative." But Greer piles Pelion on Ossa, suggesting that when Sappho says sweat is a sign of love, she has been mistranslated (by men) and means not "sweat" but vaginal juices.

Her second argument is that women poets have been, by their saccharine servility, their own enemies. She gives us Rochester's niece, a poet "who seduced and was seduced by" him. But she cloaks her inability to answer why this should be so with such mumbo-jumbo as "the very use of the term female poet... suggests a willful androgyny". She suggests that the answer won't come before the "death of print and dismantling of the literary establishment". That might mean never, but Greer has fired some mighty cannons on the way.

■ THE OXFORD BOOK OF LETTERS

Edited by Frank Kermode and Anita Kermode

Oxford University Press, £11.99 ISBN 0 19 282522 4

A BOOK to satisfy e most ardent epistolary voyeur. Over 300 letters spanning 600 years, from Thomas Moore's final correspondence to hdaughter, to Philip Larkin's somewhat acrimonious letter (Kingsley Amis, 11 days before Larkin died. Fanny Burney describes in gruesome detail her mastectomy without anaesthetic: "... the terrible cutting was renewed... the Kie [racking] against the breast bone". Aldous Huxley relates to Dora Carrington how, between him and a friend, a Dutegirl's "virginity hangs in the balance".

■ PERFECT HAPPINESS

By Rachel Billington

Seagull, £14.99

ISBN 0 340 67512 8

■ EMMA IN LOVE

By Emma Tennant

Fourth Estate, £12.99

ISBN 1 85197 527 X

■ A PORTRAIT OF JANE AUSTEN

By David Cecil

Penguin, £12.50

ISBN 0 14 005411 1

■ MY DEAR CASSANDRA

By Jane Austen

Collins & Brown, £8.99

ISBN 1 85385 004 4

fiercely snobby, meddling madly, in combat with her husband and "marooned on an island of self-regard". Billington's heroine is a much milder character: still a snob, but generally redeemed of her other faults by marriage and by the shame of her brother-in-law's bankruptcy.

Both novelists have allowed themselves two new characters, apiece, but, otherwise, concentrate on the cast which Austen created. Both stories culminate in a typical set piece — one a ball, one a dinner-party — and both, like the original, take place over less than a year. But each has a very different flavour.

But what is the point of these literary games of consequences? These are certainly two attempts at the former — "It is a well-attested truth..." (Billington); "It is often to be observed..." (Tennant) — but neither is satisfactory. Billington's pen is just not sharp enough; and though Tennant has the Austen voice and comic touch, she strays too far from the content.

Transvestism, lesbianism, and Miss Bates's exclaiming "Bollocks!" in polite society — it is really too unlike the home life of our own dear Miss Woodhouse.

LIFE is a bottle of champagne in a fridge which has nothing else left in it except a dried up heel of cheese. For a lonely man sitting in an empty flat reviewing his life, it is as good a metaphor as any — of pleasure spent, opportunities seized and lost, of expectations and disappointments, but also of optimism. "You can't," as the hero of William McIlvanney's new novel observes, "put the cork back on champagne". But you can enjoy the bubbles while they last.

The Kiln is a tour de force, a wry and witty novel, shot through with deep reflections on how, in a materialistic world, we come to terms with ourselves, with society, and with those we love and hurt. This is a wiser more mature McIlvanney than we have been used to, still demonstrating a Scottish writer, but here ranging far wider, not just geographically, but intellectually, moving with unpretentious ease from thoughts on

■ THE KILN

By William McIlvanney

Seagull, £15.99

ISBN 0 340 67535 9

Livy to skin-reading Nietzsche and grappling with Brecht. His descriptions of sex — experimental, failed, farcical or intense, are a delight.

The novel is part-nostalgic — the reflections of a middle-aged man on one summer in his youth, when he worked in a kiln, hesitated about earning a wage or going to university, and began to discover himself through his friends, his family, and above all through other women. But there is nothing self-indulgent about it. The theme it explores is whether the individual can fulfil his potential only by selfish pursuit of his own ends (the selfish gene?) and whether, thereby, he damages others and, ultimately, himself.

The dilemma is never entirely resolved, and along the way there are human casualties. But opportunity is never entirely closed off. There is always the champagne in the fridge.

This is a finely judged and beautifully written novel. McIlvanney's most mature and rounded work so far.

MAGNUS LINKLATER

■ WHO GOES HOME?

By Roy Hattersley

Warner Books, £6.99

ISBN 0 7515 1751 8

ROY HATTERSLEY, the scion of an old labour family, has been a party activist since he was 14. After his election in 1964 as Member for Sparkbrook, he served in Wilson's Government and Callaghan's Cabinet, ending up as Deputy Leader. If you're looking for an even-headed political memoir, this isn't it. It's a cheerily biased and very funny account of 30 years at the centre of government by an immensely tall, big journalist and raconteur, wholly convinced of the rigour of his socialist convictions. As such it should not be missed.

Contributors: Ross Macle, Perry Cleveland-Peck, Fiona Hook, Hazel Sile

■ THE WAR THAT NEVER WAS

By David Pryce-Jones

Phoenix, £12.99

ISBN 1 85197 475 2

THIS compelling book describes the dissolution of the Soviet Union between 1985-91. Pryce-Jones travelled in Eastern Europe, talking to people who experienced it, from dissidents to party members. A picture of a society which rewarded only "human nature's most repugnant qualities", as Zinoviev put it, emerges. The confusion of its collapse makes such depressing reading that one is oddly cheered by the vision of Mrs Thatcher letting fly at the astonished Soviet generals on her visit in 1987.

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14

GOING OUT

CHILDREN

LONDON

Chinese Autumn Festival
Families are invited to celebrate the autumn harvest in this moon-worshipping festival. Featuring talks and demonstrations, music and drama and practical workshops. **Victoria and Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8638). Starts today, tomorrow, times vary; phone for details.

No 7 Dandelion Street
The story of Major Mustard and the wacky residents living in the terraced cottage. For three to seven-year-olds. **Little Angel Marionette Theatre**, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today, tomorrow, 11am; £5, cones £4.50.

Ian Saville's Magic Show
A magic concoction of ventriloquism and illusion. For ages four and over. **Lyric Hammersmith**, King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Today, 11am and 1pm; £3.50.

Magic Lantern Slides
Series of creative workshops for three-year-olds and above. **Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood**, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (0181-463 5200). Today, 11am-12.45pm and 2-3.45pm; free.

REGIONAL

BALLYMONEY, Co Antrim
Teddy Exhibition
The last day to uncover the history of the lovable bear. **Heritage Centre**, Charlotte Street (01265 62280). Today, 10am-12.30pm and 2-4pm; free.



London: children can brush up on their drawing skills at this weekend's Chinese Autumn Festival

CLIFDEN, Co Galway
Clifden Community Arts Week
Featuring poetry, songs and storytelling. **Various Venues**, (00 353 95 21162). Today, tomorrow, phone for details; mostly free.

ELVASTON, Derbyshire
Doll Fair
Toys galore in this fair with collectors, artists and craftspeople supplying the merchandise. **Elvaston Castle**, (01480 216372). Tomorrow,

10.30am-4.30pm; £2.20, cones £1.10, child free.
KNOCKCROGHERY, Co Roscommon
Knockcroghery Fair and Festival
Mixed bag of events for children, including puppet show, football and sheep fair. **Various venues**, (00 353 903 61110). Today, tomorrow, times vary.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Science Factory
Educational science centre

with games for children. **Discovery Museum**, Blandford Square (0191-232 6789). Today, 10am-5pm; free.

TENTERDEN, Kent
Friends of Thomas the Tank Engine
Meet the Fat Controller and Mrs Kyndley and take a ride behind "Duck" or a "Really Useful Steam Engine". **Kent and East Sussex Railway**, (01580 765155). Today, tomorrow, phone for details; £7.50-£9, child £4-£5.50.

FAIRS

LONDON

Adams Antiques Fair
Wide range of glass, silver, jewellery, porcelain, furniture and decorative items on offer. **Kensington Town Hall**, Hornon Street, W8 (0171-937 5464). Tomorrow, 10am-4.30pm; £1.50, child free.

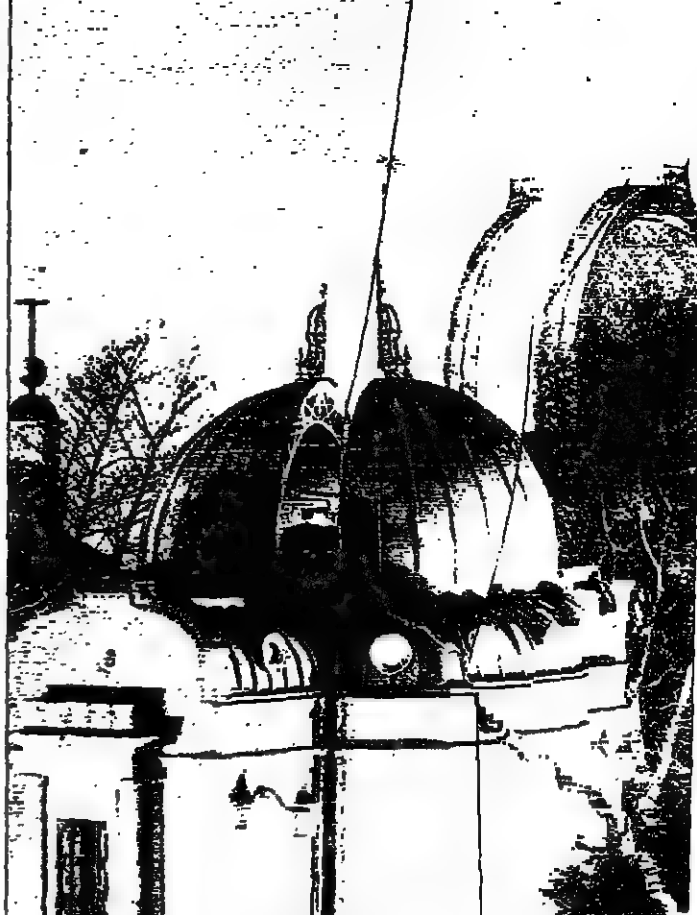
Chelsea Antiques Fair
British exhibitors offering high quality collectables. **Chelsea Old Town Hall**, King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today, 11am-6pm; £5, child free.

Collectors Film Convention
Massive film fair with more than 100 stalls offering movie memorabilia. **Westminster Central Hall**, St James's Place, SW1 (0171-222 4163/8010). Today, 10am-5pm; £1-£2.50.

National Astronomy Week
Series of lectures and other activities for the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Neptune, including great astronomers reminiscing about their work. **National Maritime Museum**, Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4423). Starts today, tomorrow, phone for details; £5.50, cones £4.50, child £3, family £16.

REGIONAL

DUBLIN
Antiques and Collectables Fair
Wide display of silver, glass, porcelain, prints, paintings and more on offer. **Newman House**, St Stephen's Green (00 3531 670 8295). Tomorrow, 11am-6pm; £1, accompanied children free.



London: National Astronomy Week at the Okeby Observatory

GLASGOW
Glasgow International Festival of Design
Key designs to the industry on show. **Various venues**. Today, tomorrow, times vary; phone 0141-204 4411 for details.

MAIDSTONE, Kent
Leeds Castle Flower Festival
See the colourful flower displays, themed around classical music.

Leeds Cast
(01622 7654). Ends today, 11am-6pm; cones £6.50, child £5.20.

SOUTHAMPTON
Southampton International Boat Show
Last week to see the on-water boat show. **Western Esplanade**, (01784 4733). Today, ends tomorrow, 11am-7pm; £7.50, child free.

POP

LONDON

Luka Bloom
Irish singer-songwriter, brother of Christy Moore. **Jazz Café**, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 7pm; £12.

Blue Rodeo
Atmospheric Canadian roots-rock combo. **Borderline**, Manette Street, Charing Cross Road, W1 (0171-734 2095). Tonight, 8pm, tomorrow, 7pm; £8.

Phil Guy
Chicago blues from Buddy Guy's little brother. **100 Club**, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 0933). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; admission £8.

Scud Mountain Boys
Alternative country-rock group from Minnesota. **Rough Trade Shop**, Talbot Road, W11 (0171-792 3490). Tonight, 6pm; free.

REGIONAL

BLACKWOOD, Gwent
Mike Peters
Solo sets from the leader of Welsh epic rockers the Alarm.

Miners Institute, (01495 22700). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6.

BOURNEMOUTH
Johnny Mathis
American balladeer sings his new collection of love songs. **Bournemouth International Centre**, Exeter Road (01202 297297). Tonight, 7pm; £22.50-£27.50.

BRENTWOOD
Brentwood International Blues Festival
Brett Marvin and the Thunderbolts, Gregg Wright's Left Hook, Robbie McIntosh and Ben Waters, Will Killeen, Motel Kings (today); the Hamsters, Tony TS McPhee, Denny Newman's Blues Ltd, Deep, Dave Kelly (tomorrow). **Hermit Club**, Shenfield Road (01277 218897). Today, 2pm, tomorrow, midday; £18.50, day tickets £10.

BRISTOL
Mike Peters, Sid Griffin
See Blackwood. **The Fleece**, St Thomas Street (0117-927 7150). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6.



London: singer-songwriter Luka Bloom at the Jazz Café

DONCASTER
Levelers
Brighton-based folk-rock festival favourites. **The Dome**, Bawtry Road (01302 370999). Today, 7.30pm; admission £10.

MANCHESTER
Silk Street
Acclaimed ambient pop band touring a new album. **Peace at Last**, Opera House, Quay Street (0161-242 2503). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £12.50.

SHEFFIELD
Super Furry Animals
Welsh psychedelic indie-pop band. **Leadmill**, Leadmill Road (0114-275 4500). Tonight, 9.30pm; £7, cones £6.

CRITICS CHOICE

THE BLUETONES
Touring America may have done for Oasis, but the Bluetones are made of sterner stuff. With a romping new single, *Marblehead Johnson*, poised to enter the chart tomorrow, the band returns to start an autumn tour which should confirm their status as heirs apparent to the Britpop crown. With their refreshing mixture of guitar-based tunes rooted in the best traditions of English alternative pop, the quartet from Hounslow will be much in evidence in the coming weeks, though tickets may be harder to find.

DAVID SINCLAIR
Westcliff Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea (01702 351135). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.50.

SWINDON
RAW 96
Corduroy, the Brotherhood, 9 Below Zero, Peter Andre, C & C Music Factory, MNS, Michelle Gayle, Upside Down, Wroughton Airfield, (01793 525588). Today, 11am-11pm; £17.50.

CLASSICAL

LONDON
Alla Deyeva/Konstantin Arslakov
Collection of works by Glinka, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. **Purcell Room**, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 3.15pm; £5-£8.50.

Connections
A Russian flavour to the evening, featuring chamber

works by Rachmaninov and Shostakovich. **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm; £6.50-£12.

CRITICS CHOICE

ELGAR IN BULK
The chance to hear Sir Edward Elgar's three great oratorios in one weekend comes rarely. *The Dream of Gerontius* was performed last night at the Barbican, but still to come are *The Apostles* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *The Kingdom* (tomorrow, 4pm). For many years these epic choral works — dealing with the central Christian beliefs about life and the afterlife — were considered to be interesting but not quite vintage Elgar: now opinions are changing. Richard Hickox, who was born to conduct this sort of music, directs the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

RICHARD MORRISON
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891).

Edith Wiens/Oliver Widmer
Featuring 27 lieder settings of Morike by Hugo Wolf. **Wigmore Hall**, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7.50-£15.

Mobius
Chamber music by Ravel, Bach, Schubert, Weber. **St John's**, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£10.

REGIONAL

BRADFORD
English Northern Philharmonia/Lloyd-Jones
Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances*. **St George's Hall**, Bridge Street (01274 752000). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£15.50.

GLASGOW
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Brabbins
Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz*, D'Albert's Second Piano Concerto, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. **Stevenson Hall**, Renfrew Street (0141-332 5057). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10, cones £6.

LEWES
London Philharmonic/Norrington
Cecilia Bartoli sings Mozart and Rossini arias. **Glyndebourne Opera House**, (01273 813813). Tonight, 5pm; £100-£300.

MANCHESTER
BBC Philharmonic/Tortelier
Messiaen's *Turangalila* Symphony, Poulenc's *Gloria*. **Bridgewater Hall**, Lower Mosely Street (0161-907 9000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10, cones £7.

NEWTOWN
BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Olalk
Sibelius's Second Symphony, plus Mozart's *Symphony No 1*. **Theatre Haydon**, Llanidloes Road (01686 625007). Tomorrow, 7pm; £10, cones £8.

OPERA

LONDON

A Midsummer Night's Dream
English National Opera revives Robert Cursen's staging of Britten's opera, conducted by Stuart Bedford: Lillian Watson as Titya. **Peter Rose as Bottom**. **London Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight, 6.30pm; £6.50-£55.

REGIONAL

SHEFFIELD
La Traviata
Music Theatre London performs Verdi's classic tragedy. **Crucible Theatre**, Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8.50-£15.

CRITICS CHOICE

DAS RHEINGOLD
The first of the Royal Opera's three Ring cycles is launched with the one-act Prologue, and there are surprises in Richard Jones's exhilaratingly fresh production from the start: rubbery Rhinemaidens promising more than their fair share of pneumatic bliss. The ace cast is led by John Tomlinson. Jane Henschel, Ekkehard Witschitta and Philip Langridge, and whatever happens on stage to mystify or tickle one's fancy, Bernard Haitink is in the pit to maintain Wagnerian musical standards unsurpassable anywhere in the world today.

RODNEY MILNES
Royal Opera House, Bow Street, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Today, 7.30pm; £7-£147.50.



London: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Coliseum

COMEDY

LONDON

Comics for Asylum
Fast-talking Ben Elton, Mark Thomas, Uzma Hameed, Jeremy Hardy, Mark Steel and guests. **Hackney Empire**, Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10, cones £5.

Cosmic Comedy Club
George Egg, Dave Thompson, Sean Meo, Jo Caulfield, Jeff Innocent. **Astro Bar and Cosmic Comedy Club**, Fulham Palace Road, W6 (0171-381 2006). Tonight, 8.30pm; £8.

Downstairs at the King's Head
Huw Thomas MCs for

Adam Bloom, Anthony King, Jack Russell, Joey Lee and Keith Collins. **Downstairs at the King's Head**, Crouch End Hill, N8 (0181-340 1028). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £4.50, cones £3.50.

Jongleurs Camden
Sean Meo, Phil Davey, Vladimir McTavish and Bill Bailey. **Tim Clark MCs**. **Jongleurs Comedy Camden Lock**, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2166). Tonight, 7.15pm and 11.15pm; £10, cones £7.

Red Plimsoll Comedy Club
Timandra MCs for Kevin Precious, Earl Oldin, Paul Tomkinson, Gina Ryan. **The Plimsoll Arms**, St Thomas's Road, N4 (0171-288 1633). Tonight, 9pm; £6, cones £4.

CRITICS CHOICE

COMICS FOR ASYLUM
Ben "Popcorn" Elton, the comic who is currently causing a stir by taking a serious view of screen violence, heads this benefit evening on Sunday. It is in support of Asylum Aid, an organisation which provides independent advice for refugees and those seeking asylum in Britain. The hilariously dry Jeremy Hardy is also lined up, joined by Mark Steel, Mark Thomas and lesser names. Leon Rosselson sings. Uzma Hameed comperes. The historic, pretty Hackney Empire is worth a visit in itself.

KATE BASSETT
Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tomorrow, 8pm (doors 7pm).

REGIONAL

BRISTOL
Comedy Box
BBC Stand Up Comedy Award-winner Marcus Brigstocke, plus Rex Boyd and Brendon Burns. **The Bristol Flyer**, Gloucester Road (0117-942 1779). Tonight, 8.45pm; £5.

CAMBRIDGE
Victoria Wood
Headline Hulme's favourite comedy star. **Corn Exchange**, Wheeler Street (01223 357851). Tonight, 7.30pm; phone for availability.

DERBY
Bob Downer
Hair-lacquered crooner in nylon with a new song and dance routine. **Assembly Rooms**, Market Place (01332 255800). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.50.

OXFORD
Greg Proops
The resident American from *Whose Line is it Anyway?* **Theatre**, Rose Place, St Aldates (01865 798603). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; phone for prices.

FILMS

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES
Antonia's Line (15)
A Dutch woman's feisty life. Feel-good movie from Marleen Gorris: this year's winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar. **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Gate** (0171-721 4043) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

♦ **Escape from LA (15)**
Blowzy action movie from John Carpenter, set in a lawless Los Angeles of 2013. With Kurt Russell. **Empire** (0800-888 911) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

The Great White Hype (15)
Flat-footed sports satire, with Samuel L. Jackson as a flamboyant boxing impresario. Director, Reginald Hudlin. **Odeon West End** (01426-915 574) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121)

Guantanamo (15)
Lethargic Cuban satire with a few bright trimmings. Directors, Tomas Gutierrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tablo. **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love (15)
Gauche but sweet tale of teenage lesbians, written and directed by Maria Maggenti. With Laurel Holloman, Nicole Parker. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

♦ **Striptease (15)**
Demi Moore's stripper seeks custody of her daughter. Clumsy mixture of sex, satire and melodrama, with Burt Reynolds. Director, Andrew Bergman. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

CURRENT

♦ **Emma (U)**
Gwyneth Paltrow shines in a Jane Austen adaptation that leans too much towards the pretty-pretty. With Jeremy Northam. Director, Douglas McGrath. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Minima** (0171-235 4225) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Renoir** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

♦ **James and the Giant Peach (U)**
Mistreated James finds his

feet in peach voyaging across the Atlantic. Excellent animated version of Roald Dahl book, from the team behind *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Director, Henry Selick. **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426-914666) **Rio** (0171-254 877) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)



Femi Moore and daughter Lumer star in Striptease

♦ **Mulholland Falls (15)**
Handsome but nutted mystery thriller set in 1950s Los Angeles. With Nick Nolte, John Malkovich, Melonie Griffith, Chazz Palminteri and Michael Madsen. Director, Lee Tamorri. **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426-914666) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

♦ **Shogun Beauty (15)**
Light enjoyable Berber film about an Armenian teenager's sexual awakening in Tuscany. With Tyler, Jeremy Irons, David Cusack and Raci Weiss. **Lume** (0171-836 0991) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

CRITICS CHOICE

A ME TO KILL (15)
A dustbust film version of Jol Grisham's first novel. The story alone is fiery enough (white lawyer defends black man for murdering the rebecks who raped his young daughter). Then director Joel Schumacher fans the flames by inflating scenes beyond safety limits. Pover scenes with Samuel Jackson, the avenging ther, and Matthew McConaughey's inexperienced attorney; but Sandra Bullock seems to have drifted in from another film entirely.

ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Notting Hill** **Coronet** (0171-721 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-830 1527) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

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مَكَدَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

GOING OUT

15

THEATRE

Faust Parts 1 and 2
Michael Bogdanov's mighty two-part production of Goethe's drama, with Michael Feast and Hugh Quarshie.
The Pit, Barbican.
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today: Part 1, 2.30pm; Part 2, 7.15pm.

CRITICS CHOICE

THE OEDIPUS PLAYS

A great king becomes the scapegoat for a city and, after years spent blindly stumbling through the countryside, ends up as another city's semi-divine protector. With the help of masks, music, stunning visual effects and somewhat stylised acting, Peter Hall's pacey yet sombre revival of *Oedipus Rex* and the less familiar *Oedipus at Colonus* reminds us that Sophocles' plays had their ritual aspects; yet we are never in doubt that the real subject is the meaning of a man's suffering.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
Oliver, National.
South Bank (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7pm.
At 5.30pm, Peter Stothard, *Editor of The Times*, in conversation with Sir Peter Hall in the *Oliver*.

The Seven Streams of the River Ota
Robert Lepage's company, Ex Machina, brings his fable of life and death in Hiroshima since 1945. Complete show lasts seven and a half hours (inc interval).
National (Lyttelton).
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Opens today, 2.45pm. Complete show, today and tomorrow, 2.45pm.

Uncle Vanya
Bill Bryden's starry Chichester cast of Frances Barber, Constance

Cummings, Trevor Eve, Derek Jacobi, Paddy Mount, with Richard Johnson in place of Alec McCowen.
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM

The Alchemist
A co-production with the National Theatre. Bill Alexander sets Ben Jonson's drama in a post-apocalyptic future. With Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence and Tim Pigott-Smith.
Repertory.
Centenary Square (0121-236 4455). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm.

MALVERN

Of Mice and Men
Geoff Bullen directs Steinbeck's powerful stage adaptation of his Depression-era drama. With Clive Mantle and Lou Hirsch.
Festival Theatre.
Grange Road (01684 892277). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

MOLD

Silas Marner
George Eliot's absorbing novel of injustice, miserliness and redemption, performed by a cast of actor-musicians with a score by Peter Knight.
Directed by Tim Baker.
Theatre Clwyd.
(01352 755114). Tonight, 7.45pm.

SPALDING

The Comedy of Errors
Tim Supple's outstanding production from Stratford. More serious and thus more moving than usual.
Castle Sports Complex.
Albion Street (01775 725031). Last performance tonight, 7.30pm.

London: Richard Johnson as Serebryakov and Imogen Stubbs as Yelena in *Uncle Vanya*

COMING SOON

LONDON

From Oct 10

Mojo
Jez Butterworth's Olivier Award-winning comedy opens the Royal Court's new residency in the West End at the Duke of York's Theatre. Box office: 0171-730 1745.

From Nov 21

The Cherry Orchard
The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Chekhov's play, with Penelope Wilton and Alec McCowen among the cast, transfers to the West End. Prior to its London run, it will return for a short season to the Swan Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon from Oct 9-Nov 9. Box office: 0171-369 1730 (London); 01789 295623 (Stratford).

From Dec 9

Guys and Dolls
The National Theatre is reviving the extremely popular and memorable 1992 production by Richard Eyre of Frank Loesser's quintessential Broadway musical. The cast is led by Henry Goodman, Imelda Staunton, Clarke Peters and Joanna Riding. Box office: 0171-928 2252.

REGIONAL

LEEDS

Nov 1-Dec 7

A Perfect Ganesh
Prunella Scales and Eleanor Bron lead the cast in the British premiere of Terrence McNally's off-Broadway play at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Box office: 0113 244211.



On tour: Celine Dion goes nationwide in November

MOLD

Oct 2-26

The House of Bernarda Alba
Di Trevis directs a cast that includes Ellie Haddington and Gillian Hanna in Lorca's masterpiece of mourning and marriage in 1930s Spain.
Theatre Clwyd. Box office: 01352 755114.

TOURING

November

Celine Dion
Canadian chart-topper appearing at Cardiff International Arena (Nov 11, 01222 230130), Sheffield Arena (Nov 13, 0114 256 5656), Manchester Arena (Nov 14, 0161-930 8000), Wembley Arena, London (Nov 16-17, 28-29; 0181-900 1234), SECC, Glasgow (Nov 19-20, 0141-248 9999) and NEC, Birmingham (Nov 22-23, 0121-780 4133).

JAZZ

LONDON

Mervyn Africa with the Eclectic String Quartet
Abdullah Ibrahim-styled South African pianist links up with Gaby Farrell's arty New York quartet.
Purcell Room.
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £10.

Tom Browne

Jazz-funk trumpeter, best known for his dance floor classic *Funkin' for Jamaica*.
Jazz Café.
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £12.

Elvin Jones Jazz Machine
John Coltrane's legendary 1960s drummer features John's son, Ravi Coltrane, on drums and Delfayo Marsalis on trombone, with singer Ian Shaw.
Ronnie Scott's.
Firth Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm; £12.

George Melly and John Chilton's Feetwarmers
Satchmo-styled swing singer features trumpeter Humphrey Lyttelton.
Daewoo Motor Show.
West Five Centre, Western Avenue, Ealing, W5 (0171-344 4444). Tonight, 6.30pm; £9.50.

Annie Ross
Popular Anglo-American singer who reached fame with 1950s vocal trio Lambert, Hendricks and Ross.
Café Royal.
Regent Street, W1 (0171-437 4040). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £25.



London: Tom Browne, the jazz-funk trumpeter

REGIONAL

BERKHAMSTEAD

Ari Thomen/Don Weller/Alan Barnes Sextet
Three top British jazz saxophonists are joined by pianist Dave Newton, bassist Andy Cleynert and drummer Dave Barry.
Berkhamstead Jazz Society, Civic Centre.
(01252 220894). Tonight, 8pm; £7, mems £5.

BIRMINGHAM

Tommy Smith's Beasts of Scotland
Atmospheric tenorist plays settings of Scottish poetry, featuring his own trumpet Guy Barker, multi-reedist Andy Panayi.
The Custard Factory.
Gibbs Street (0121-604 7177). Tonight, 8pm; £7.

BURTON UPON TRENT

Humphrey Lyttelton Band
Witty broadcaster, trad and swing trumpeter.
Burton Brewhouse.

Union Street (01283 567720). Tonight, 8pm; £12.

CRITICS CHOICE

SPIRIT OF DJANGO

The ghost of the greatest of all jazz guitarists, Django Reinhardt, is invoked in Martin Taylor's group, Spirit of Django. By no means a slavish copy of Reinhardt's Hot Club band, Taylor's line-up also draws on the talents of saxophonist Dave O'Higgins.

Ronnie Scott's.
Broad Street, Birmingham (0121-643 4525). Tonight, 9pm.

LEEDS

Nikki Yeoh's Infinitum
Funky London pianist.
The Yardbird Suite Jazz Club.
The Underground, T & C Club, Cookridge Street (0113-230 2669). Tonight, 8.30pm; £6, mems £5.

LEICESTER

Martin Taylor's Spirit of Django
See Birmingham.
Phoenix Arts.
Newark Street (0116-255 4854). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £7.50, concs £5.

MANCHESTER

Andy Sheppard/Joanna MacGregor with In-Commotion, RNCM Big Band
Worldbeat-edged saxophonist plays with his fusion quintet In-Commotion and the Royal Northern College of Music Big Band, featuring pianist Joanna MacGregor and trombonist Gary Valente.
Bridgewater Hall.
Lower Mosely Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 9pm; £10.

DANCE

CRITICS CHOICE

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: SWAN LAKE

This production by Peter Wright and Galina Samsova is one of the finest, respectful of the Tchaikovsky score and featuring lovely designs by Philip Prowse. Birmingham Royal Ballet fields two Odettes today: Monica Zamora at the matinee, Jennifer Muller tonight.

Hippodrome.
Hurst Street (0121-622 7486). Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £24.50-£35.

LONDON

Adventures in Motion
Pictures: Swan Lake Tchaikovsky's ballet in the award-winning interpretation by Matthew Bourne featuring the acclaimed all-male corps of swans.
Piccadilly Theatre.
Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Today, 2.30pm (Kemp/Wright/Mortimer); tonight, 7.30pm (Cooper/Ambler/Chadwick). £9.50-£30, standby concs available.

European Ballet: Carmen
Stanislav Tchassov choreographs the classic tale of love and passion running riot in Seville.
Hayes Beck Theatre.
Grange Road, Hayes (0181-561 8371). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £9.50-£10.50.

Jaleo: Flamenco
Celebrated flamenco company performs a new fiery programme of song and dance.
Queen Elizabeth Hall.
South Bank Centre, SE1

(0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.45pm; £9-£13.50.

REGIONAL

BRADFORD

Northern Ballet Theatre: Dracula
Spine-chilling production adapted from Bram Stoker's classic, choreographed by Christopher Gable and Michael Barren-Pink and starring Denis Malinkine as the enigmatic Count.
Alhambra Theatre.
Morley Street (01274 752000). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £6-£22.

BRISTOL

Wendy Houstoun: Haunted and Daunted
Last year's Dance Umbrella success, *Haunted*, preceded by a new solo work, *Daunted*, accompanied by John Avery's music.
Arncliffe.
Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191). Tonight, 8pm; £7.



Bradford: Dracula by Northern Ballet Theatre

DUBLIN

Lord of the Dance
Michael Flatley of Riverdance fame stages a Celtic dance spectacular.
The Point.
East Link Bridge (00 3531 836 3633). Today 2.30pm and 8pm; £21.50-£27.50.

HALIFAX

Dublin Worldwide Dance Productions: Spirit of the Dance
International dance extravaganza featuring Irish harp music and Gospel New Orleans style, to platform the work of Irish, Russian and American companies.
Victoria Theatre.
Wards End (01422 351158). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £12.50-£17.50.

NORTHAMPTON Georgian State Dance Company
Vibrant dance company recreating Georgian life throughout history.
Derngate.
Guildhall Road (01604 24811). Tomorrow, 5pm and 8pm; £12-£16.50.

WORTHING Cwmni Ballet Gwent: Red Riding Hood and the Legend of Wolves
Elements from the Grimm Brothers' tale combine with the adult film version, *The Company of Wolves*. Choreographed by Darius James, with music by Felix Mendelssohn.
Connaught Theatre.
Union Place (01903 255555).

GALLERIES

LONDON

Blumenfeld: A Fetish for Beauty
Fashion and portrait photographer's work.
Barbican Art Gallery.
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Today, 10am-6.45pm, tomorrow, midday-6.45pm; £4.50.

CRITICS CHOICE

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

The emphasis on mystery is well justified. The later dynasties are well documented but ancient China, for all the intensive archaeological work of the past 25 years, is still little known and only very hazily understood. Often the great sources of evidence have been stumbled upon by chance, such as the field of the terracotta warriors in Xian or the two large pits full of bronze statues, jewels, jades and the bones of sacrificial animals in Guangan, southwest China, which indicate an unknown civilisation more than 3,000 years ago. A number of pieces from this 1986 excavation are included and there are also such famous remains as the breathtaking jade burial suit from the tomb of the Lady Fu Hao (1200 BC).

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR
British Museum.
Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-323 8783). Today, 10am-4.50pm, tomorrow 2.30-5.50pm; £5.

Tacita Dean: Foley Artist
Former Slade School artist explores the use of sound in film for the Art Now space.
Tate Gallery.
Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000). Today, 10am-5.50pm, tomorrow, 2.5-5.50pm; free.

Literati: Mark Gerson
Portraits of celebrities from the literary world.
National Portrait Gallery.
St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, midday-6pm; free.

Robert Mapplethorpe
Acclaimed photographer's long-awaited retrospective.
Hayward Gallery.
Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £5.

REGIONAL

CHICHESTER

New Sculpture at Goodwood
Work by Anthony Caro, Lynn Chadwick and Richard Deacon.
Sculpture at Goodwood.
Hail Hill Copse (01243 538449). Today, 10.30am-4.30pm; £10.

DURHAM Bill Viola
New site-specific work from the master of spectacle.
Durham Cathedral.
Palace Green (0191-384 2555).

TRAVEL TO THE GOLDEN DOMES AND SPLENDOURS OF IRAN

Ruth Gledhill joins the Browning Society's celebration of a marriage

Souls of poets dead and gone



ALTHOUGH we were there to celebrate a marriage, St Marylebone parish church, a sombre building at the best of times, seemed filled with an atmosphere that was somehow spooky. If *thou must love me, let it be for nought*. Except for love's sake only, someone whispered nearby, exactly 150 years on from the few minutes in which Robert Browning wed Elizabeth Barrett on exactly the same spot. Unlike the emphasis in which they married, in secret and against the wishes of Elizabeth's tyrannical father, the church was packed, with members of the Browning Society and scholars from all over the world as well as members of their respective families, united now as they were divided then.

"We give thanks, especially, that they acted on their deepest feelings and, committing themselves to each other, risked an uncertain future that was lead them far from family and friends," we prayed. "We rejoice in the personal fulfilment of their marriage and the consequent enrichment of their poetry." The couple's story is all the more romantic in that Elizabeth's life seemed destined, for many years, to end in loneliness and tragedy. After a happy childhood in the Malvern Hills she fell seriously ill at 15 and the Barrett family moved to Wimpole Street in London. Her father, devastated by the death of

fragile, secluded herself for years in her room, behind a web of ivy and a double door. The fire was lit all year round and her two dogs slept with her. The room was barely dusted. In her letters she described how the spiders had grown tame and their webs part of the scene. There was an adjoining door to her father's room, and they prayed together every night. Browning, whom she had never met, wrote to her: "I love you verses with all my heart... and I love you too." Browning did not resent her father's jealousy, because he considered Elizabeth, aged 40, a treasure who

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

PRIEST: The Rev Richard McLaren
ARCHITECTURE: Consecrated in 1817 and radically altered in 1884, this magnificent church is enhanced by glittering chandeliers donated in 1968 from the Marylebone council chamber. ★★★★★

SERMON: Dr Griffiths, a Methodist minister, preached a moving tribute to the Brownings, who were both dissenters. ★★★★★

MUSIC: The two poets' words set to music, and sung by soloist Catherine Peacock. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Poems, prayers, hymns and reflections on the lives of Elizabeth and Robert. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: As strange as dreams of distant spheres. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Pastoral and spiritual. St Marylebone has transformed its vestry into a healing and counselling centre.

should be guarded with vigilance. Nevertheless, her father's grief-stricken stubbornness left them no choice but to elope, which they did, to Italy but not until a week after the wedding.

Leslie Griffiths, a Methodist minister at Wesley's chapel in the City of London, preached, in our day their story would create banner headlines in the tabloids, he said. "But behind it lies the monumental struggle for Elizabeth's soul. The great thing is the love Robert had for Elizabeth. That great thing points to the struggle taking place in her mind and for her heart. This particular story points not only to people who have loved, but to the whole human race. At its heart, is the tension between Elizabeth's love for her father and her love for Robert."

"Two principles of the great Judeo-Christian ethic are brought into conflict: to love father and mother, and in marriage to leave father and mother," Elizabeth was proud and independent but she came to see that "only an act of submission, a surrender of self, could allow her to experience the true love that was coming her way."

Elizabeth's despotic father never forgave her. At this celebration of their marriage, tinged with sadness, we wondered who held her now. "Death," I said. But, there, the silver answer rang. "Not Death, but Love."

St Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LT (0171-935 7315). For further information on the Browning Society contact Dr Marie Calcraft.

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Why he can't stomach it

A Vet Writes...

Few dogs go through life without at least one bout of "V&D" — vomiting and diarrhoea. An untidy event, a thorough nuisance, but life-threatening only to the very young or very old.

Adult dogs can have diarrhoea one day and be normal next morning without treatment. It is reasonable to wait 24 hours before going to the vet if Fido's simply leaky, but bright and cheerful in every other way. Three or four days' delay is too long and if he has vomited several times, 24 hours' inaction is enough. Gastroenteritis — usually GE — is a general diagnosis of almost all V&Ds. It means no more than inflammation of the stomach and intestine. Any "itis" means inflammation; "gastro" refers to the stomach; "enter" to the intestines. GE does not indicate the reason for the trouble.

Whatever the cause, dehydration can be a major problem. Fluid is lost in liquid motions and when the dog vomits. It must be replaced, but filling the water bowl is not the answer. The dog feels thirsty and has a good drink. His inflamed stomach does not appreciate half a pint of water and rejects it — plus an ounce or so of normal gastric

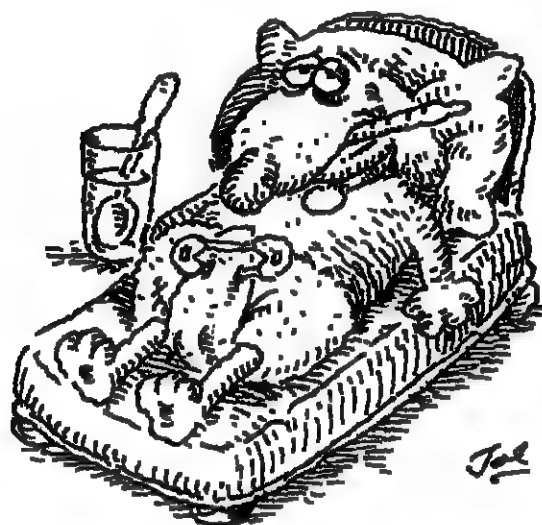
juice. The net result is a loss of fluid. The dog feels even thirstier, drinks more, vomits again, with a further loss. If he drank a tablespoonful of water and retained it, this would be progress — and half an hour later he might keep down an eggcupful.

Most dogs are sick from time to time. Dogs' stomachs can cope with some revolting foods. Our pets' ancestors relied on long-dead carrion as a major part of their diet. But there are limits. If Fido finds something smelly and horrible, long past its "eat by" date, he has a built-in first aid mechanism. He vomits the offending material.

Nursing bitches will vomit food for their pups to eat: it is part of the weaning process. Greedy dogs relieve an overloaded stomach by ejecting the contents then re-eating them. The food stays put a second time around.

There are dozens of causes of gastroenteritis. A precise diagnosis takes time and needs veterinary tests and advice. Don't wait too long and don't make things worse in the meanwhile by allowing him to drink — and vomit — ad lib.

JAMES ALLCOCK



It is not just human beings who suffer back problems — four-legged friends may need treatment too



Osteopath Anthony Pusey sets to work manipulating a sedated horse. The aim is to make the horse more comfortable by loosening limbs and making the animal more supple

The animal manipulators

Anthony Pusey, an osteopath, was not surprised to receive a call from a patient requesting he come immediately because Jack was rolling around the kitchen floor in agony. He had already treated the caller, his wife and one of his sons, and so presumed

Jack was another son. But he was in for a surprise. Jack turned out to be an Alsatian. In his ten years as a practising osteopath Mr Pusey had never treated an animal and he had to explain he could not do so (no one may treat an animal unless they are the owner, a vet or someone acting under

the supervision of or in consultation with a vet).

Now, 15 years since his meeting with Jack, Mr Pusey is one of the top animal osteopaths in Britain with a practice in West Sussex and a consultancy at an equine hospital in Oxfordshire. He also co-ordinates the Masters degree course module at the British School of Naturopathy and Osteopathy in London.

One osteopath who studied under Mr Pusey is Emma Ross. "It has been known for a human patient to come to me and say they're having a problem with their back and then coincidentally ask me to treat their dog, who also has a back problem," she says.

Animal osteopathy differs little from that performed on humans. The osteopath aims to cure a condition and relieve pain. The onset of old age can bring its problems for pets. Hip displacement is an orthopaedic problem found in certain large breeds of dogs. It causes the back legs to become unsteady and the limbs stiff and painful.

Osteopathy will not cure it but, according to Mr Pusey,

treatment can alleviate the condition. "Hip displacement can cause back problems which we can treat with osteopathy," Ms Ross says. "By doing that, we can often help the limbs — but it doesn't cure what is a hip problem."

"In some old dogs, however, you know they won't get better. What we aim to do is to make them more comfortable by loosening parts that have become tight and making the animal more supple," she says. "Osteopathy is a gentle process, although you do need some strength. But it's more about technique than force."

Mr Pusey might also have wished for more strength on occasions. In common with most osteopaths working with horses, he prefers to have

them sedated. "The worst a dog can do is bite you. Horses can bite and kick."

As horses are relaxed by the sedative they can lean forward resting their considerable weight on the osteopath. Eighteen months ago Mr Pusey's years of propping up sedated horses gave him a hernia so he no longer treats them alone.

Mr Pusey charges between £28 and £30 for a 30 to 40 minute consultation.

While the majority of work done by animal osteopaths is with domestic pets and farm animals such as horses, cows and sheep, Tony Nevin is happy to treat wild animals. "I get the joy of treating an animal, which would otherwise not survive, and getting it back to the wild," he says.

Mr Nevin's CV reads like that of the ship's surgeon on Noah's Ark. In his work at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Reserve Centre and his own clinical practice, he has treated wild animals as diverse as bats, badgers, iguanas, elephants, foxes and recently the oldest Brazilian tapir in captivity. He is currently treating a Burmese elephant with a lower back problem. He charges £25 for the initial consultation and £20 for each consultation after that.

The good news is that while the pet makes a full recovery, the pet owner can make a different kind of recovery. Treatment methods once regarded as cranky by insurance companies are now widely accepted. "So long as it's recommended by a vet, we pay out for alternative therapies," says Paul Cosgrove of insurers Pet Plan.

As for Jack, his owner was able to contact the vet so that Mr Pusey could consult with him. After three of Ms Pusey's treatments, Jack was back to his old self.

BRENDAN MARTIN

OSTEOPATH FACT FILE

- Anthony Pusey, Awbrook Lodge, Lewes Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 7TB (01444 831576/01444 831211).
- Tony Nevin, The Old Convent, Beeches Green, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL4 4AD (01453 766394).
- To find osteopaths in your area, for yourself or your pet, contact the Osteopathic Information Service, PO Box 2074, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4YR (01734 512051).

Call for pets to be on prescription

NATIONAL Cat Week ends tomorrow. It was preceded by a prediction that the day when pets will be readily available on prescription is getting closer. This was from Sam Ahmed, a professor of palliative medicine at Sheffield University, who is leading a campaign to place the study of the human-companion animal bond higher up the UK research agenda. According to the Cat Protection League, "Despite considerable medical evidence supporting the beneficial health aspects of owning and stroking a pet, only 4 per cent of residential/nursing homes in the UK offer accommodation for pet owners and just one in seven keep their own cat for residents to interact with." Events this weekend, which have been organised by Cat Protection League regions, include a gala at Drill Hall, Broadgate, Lincoln, today 10am; open days at North London Shelter, 135



Owning a cat has medical benefits

PET NEWS

Junction Road, Archway, London N19, today, noon; Ryde Centre, Isle of Wight, today, noon; Whiteley Centre, Warsop, tomorrow, 2pm; Maypole Cat Fayre, Maypole Inn, Yapton, Chichester, tomorrow, 11am; as well as many other local events. For details, call your local branch of the Cat Protection League.

Courses for horses

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New rabbit home

THE rapidly expanding British House Rabbit Association has a new address and a newsletter coming out soon. Write to BHR, PO Box 340, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE99.

JACK CROSSLEY

Swallows but no amazons

Feather Report

LAST WEEK I found a swallow's nest in Venice. I was standing on the bridge just by the little "school" where the wonderful Carpaccio paintings are housed, when I saw a swallow wheeling over the canal between some moored gondolas. Suddenly it flew up to the front of one of the houses on the canal side, stayed there a moment, and flew off again. I went down from the bridge, and above the doorway, on a modern electric light fitting under a Renaissance balcony, I found its mud nest.

It must have been feeding some late young, though I could not see them from below. It is quite unusual to find a swallow nesting in the heart of a city, but Venice is rather different from other cities, and the bird probably

caught enough insects above the canals and along the edge of the lagoon. Mosquitoes doubtless figured prominently in its diet.

Swallows have always been opportunistic nesters. They probably nested originally in caves, but saw their chance when mankind became farmers and switched their allegiance to barns. Nowadays, wooden barns with convenient rafters are dwindling in numbers, and swallows are suffering because of it. But they are adaptable. Last year, in a Bedfordshire village, I found a pair nesting under the roof of a little wooden pavilion on a triangle of grass at the village crossroads.



Swallows adapt to city life

DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birders — visit the coast to see migrating sea birds and waders. Twicken — blue-winged teal, Abberon reservoir, Essex: pectoral sandpiper, Blithfield, reservoir. Staffs: spotted crane, Titchwell, Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 200222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

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TRAVEL

17

Iran: Away from the drab capital, the land is a Persian carpet of turquoise and gold, domes and surprises

From Darius to the ayatollahs



Friends looked startled when I said I was just back from a visit to Iran. They thought I was either brave, especially for a woman, or a bit eccentric. After a day in Tehran other visitors might think the same.

The capital is mostly grey and characterless, dominated by slab-like buildings and backed by slab-like mountains. You can ride up to the snowline in a cable car and eat kebabs in a cold, windowless restaurant, brightened only by a frame of coloured lights around the giant portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Reminders that this is the Islamic Republic of Iran are everywhere. Our tour bus had a sign on the roof reading "God remember", and God's representatives made sure that women remembered the hijab, Islamic dress code.

The Homa hotel chain welcomes its visitors from the West with a sign above the main door in huge and permanent-looking brass letters, "Down with USA". This official hostility is totally at odds, however, with the welcome extended to foreigners by the people of Iran. They smiled, talked to us and lined up to be photographed with us.

The bus took us south with our guide, Mr Sassan, who was uncontrollable in his generosity. The mere thought of pistachio nuts and a bag of them would drop into our laps: glance out of the window and the bus would screech to a halt for a photo stop; peep at the guidebook and a whole library of informative literature would be handed to us.

Mr Sassan moved from seat to seat, gazing curiously into our faces, trying to fathom our needs. Referring to himself always in the third person he was omnipotent. "Mr Sassan will take care of it himself; just ask Mr Sassan."

For 3,000 years the former Persia has produced extraordinary men whose mark on history is gloriously and disturbingly evident in modern Iran: from the ceremonial centre of Persepolis, built by Darius the Great (548-486 BC), to the reign of the last Shah of Persia ("King of Kings, Light of the Aryans"), and finally to the Islamic revolution of Khomeini.

The Iranians are proud of their country. They feel invincible. They believe that the West, America in particular, is afraid of them, so there are none of the signs of nervousness so visible in politically unstable countries. We saw no road blocks, no youngsters toting machineguns, and no tougher security than you would find in Britain.

One of the great Persian rulers was Shah Abbas I, who reigned from 1577 to 1629. In those 42 years he defeated the Uzbeks and Turks, regaining a lost slice of empire, and drove out the Portuguese, who were causing trouble on the Gulf. Sympathetic to any nation with reason to hate the Turks, he invited the Armenians to take refuge in Iran (and would they mind bringing with them some useful technology?).

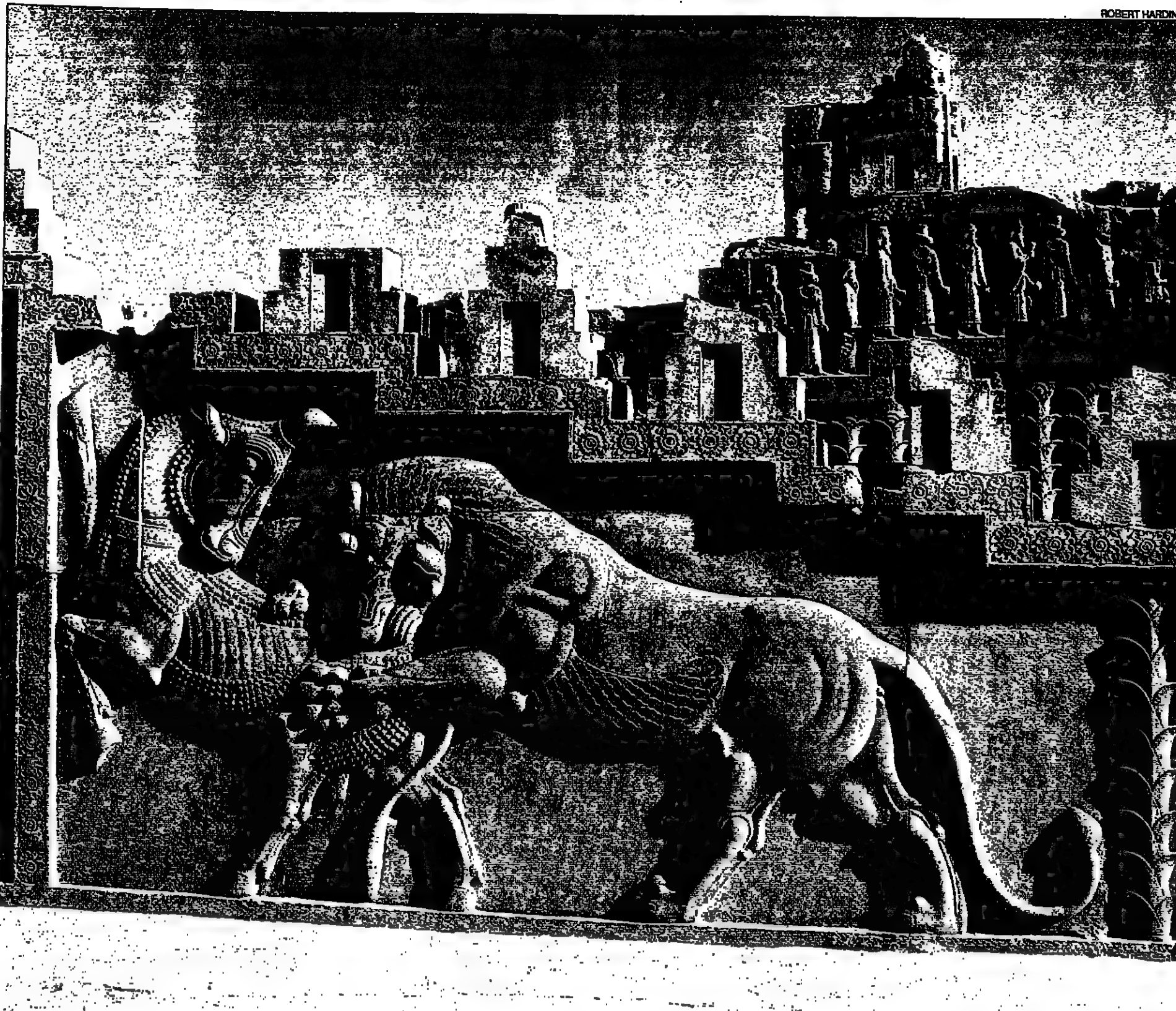
The Shah went on to establish trade relations with Britain, give protection to the great trans-Asia caravan routes, and to create Isfahan, one of the finest cities in the world.

Isfahan is glorious: it has shady, tree-lined avenues, covered bridges, more than 200 mosques and, perhaps, the most perfect urban space in the world. Maidan-e-Imam (Imam Square), which is twice as big as Moscow's Red Square.

In 1612, Shah Abbas decided that the grandstand view afforded from the seven-storey Ali Qapu palace should be put to good use. A polo ground was laid out and, no doubt, polo was played, but the square also drew caravans of traders from all over Asia and local people tapped into the wealth of the visitors. According to a contemporary writer there were jugglers, puppet theatres, verse and prose storytellers, thimble-riggers (whatever they are), preachers and tents full of prostitutes.

We visited the square in the early afternoon when there was hardly anybody around, apart from a group of giggling schoolgirls, who joined us to gaze out from the second floor of Ali Qapu palace. The blue and gold domes of two mosques gleamed in the sun, reversing themselves in the ornamental pools that divide up the square.

The Shah's private mosque, the Sheikh Lutfollah, faces the palace, but the crowning glory of the square is the Imam Mosque. It is entered through a soaring outer portal, 30 metres (about 100ft) high, and



Bas-relief carvings are the glory of ancient Persepolis. Whole walls of cuneiform text explain how great and wonderful a king Darius was, and depict subjects bearing gifts

lashed entirely with intricately patterned blue tiles. The visitor is surrounded by curves and colour: the honeycomb-design ceilings look like caves of dream stalactites, and the arches and domes are the hazy blue of distant hills. Surrounding the square are shops selling carpets and kilims, nougat (entirely called "gas"), and marquetry boxes.

Most of the shop owners seemed to have studied in London or have brothers living in Bolton. They said they loved Britain and wanted to go back. They hoped more tourists would visit Isfahan so that business would pick up.

Although Isfahan is the centre of Islamic architecture it has one of the most fascinating Christian churches in the Middle East. Built by a Muslim architect, the Armenian cathedral looks like a mosque with a tiny cross on top, but is wonderfully different inside.

You forget how much you miss figurative painting in Iran (Islam forbids the representation of humans or animals). In the cathedral dedicated to St Gregor, the walls and ceilings are covered with excitingly horrible paintings. There is a *Last Judgment* reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch, and two walls of sequential paintings depicting, most graphically, the tortures suffered by St Gregor. It would be stomach-turning were it not that the saint, with his Brasso-bright halo, looks only mildly inconvenienced by

it all. In another painting the saint's tormentor has been turned into a pig, with a nose like a tapir, and looks repentant. In the next picture he has been forgiven, changed back into a prince, and is having the time of his life in Heaven. All this to a background of Gregorian chants.

We flew to Shiraz and then visited Persepolis, which was built as a ceremonial centre for celebrating the spring equinox, but the gods were no match for Darius and the Persian personality cult.

Darius was not a modest king: whole walls of cuneiform text explain how great and wonderful he was, and the bas-relief carvings, which are the glory of Persepolis, depict subjects from all over the vast empire bearing gifts that are typical of their country. You can identify Armenians, Bactrians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Ionians, Indians, and a host of others with names from childhood history books. Then the most famous name from ancient history, Alexander the Great, came and destroyed it. But what remains after more than 2,000 years is still awe-inspiring.

What surprised me most about Iran? The people: you brace yourself for hostility but find warmth and friendliness. And the beauty: you expect Iran but find yourself in Persia, a land of turquoise and gold, domes and minarets, nomads and mountains.

HILARY BRADT

● The author was a guest of Magic Carpet Travel.

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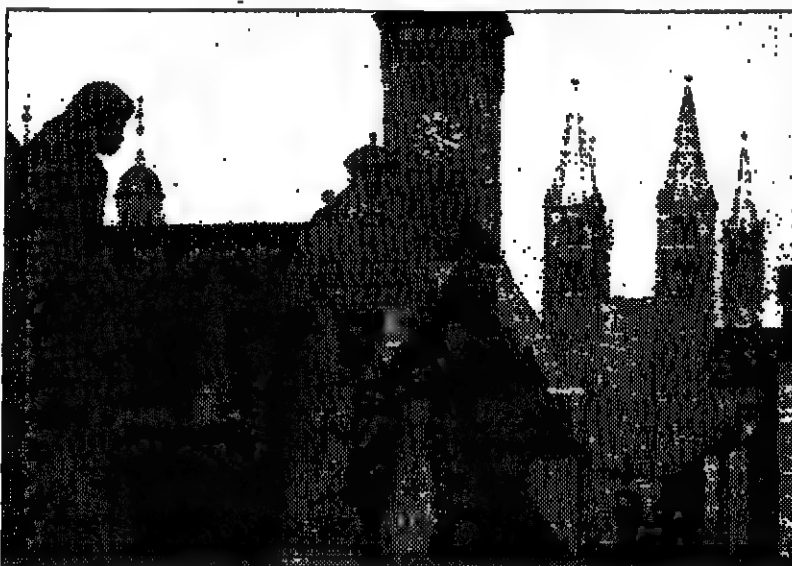
breaches the Carpathians and the foothills of the Balkan Mountains. By means of the Danube-Black Sea Canal we will enter the Black Sea and the ancient city of Constantia, before making our way to the final stop of Bucharest.

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HOW TO GET TO IRAN AND WHERE TO STAY

■ Magic Carpet Travel (0171-385 9975) offers a variety of tours, starting from £765 for eight days from £1,065 for two weeks in three-star hotels and £1,366 in five-star hotels. Prices include all transfers, internal flights, the services of a guide, and full-board accommodation, but do not include flights from Britain, which can be arranged at an extra cost.

■ Direct flights: British Airways (0345 222111); Iran Air (0171-409 0971); Air France (0181-742 6600), via Paris; Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) via Vienna. Prices from £399 to £540.

■ Other tour operators include Classic Tours (0171-613 4441), British Museum Traveller (0171-323 8895), Steppes East (01285 810267), and Jasmin (01628 531121).

■ Visas cost £33 and are not readily issued for independent travel (though Magic Carpet Travel often makes visa applications on behalf of independent travellers). Apply to the Iranian Consulate, 50 Kensington Court, London W8 5NR (0171-937 5225). Women must supply

■ In Iran, women must cover their hair in public, and show no flesh. Long, loose trousers and a long-sleeved shirt are allowed, but the authorities prefer a *rupush* (long, cotton coat). Some tour companies provide these or they may be bought inexpensively in Iran.

■ International hotel chains in the main tourist centres are of a high standard. Restaurant food is monotonous kebabs and rice. With persistence, more tasty dishes can be found. Non-alcoholic beer is popular and drinkable.

■ The official language is Farsi, but English is widely spoken.

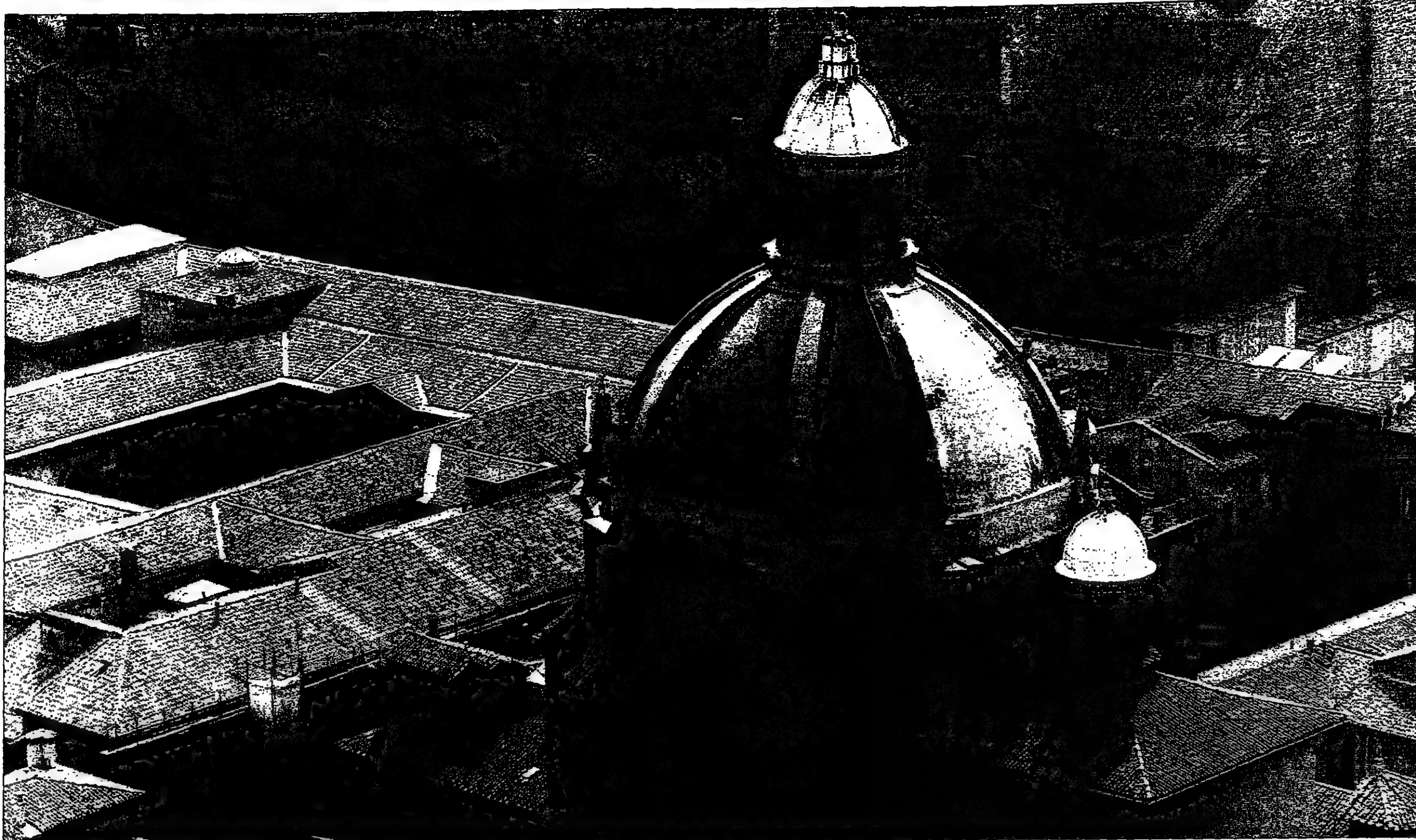
■ The unit of currency is the rial. Travellers cheques or cash (pounds or American dollars) can be changed at hotels. Credit cards are rarely accepted.

■ The best months to visit Iran are Mar-May, and Sept-Nov. Summers are very hot, and intolerable for women visitors who must observe the *hijab*. Winters are cold.

■ Books: *Iran: A Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely



Bologna: An ancient and cultured town that's also flesh-and-blood modern Italy, not just a tourist tableau



The centre of Bologna, once a Roman provincial town, retains a medieval appearance with its many domed churches, terracotta roofing everywhere, walls of varying shades of burnt ochre, and streets fanning out in every direction

Where the touro-dollar is small change

It was the sight of the student couple having a hungry snog in the second row to the back while I attempted to interest the hall with a lecture on the effects of idealism on British popular culture since the Second World War that clinched it for me.

This was not the Italy of sightseeing delight — heretofore, restored, and air-conditioned coach-toured. Bologna, with its necking teenagers seeking somewhere out of the cold on a Saturday afternoon (presumably because they couldn't snog at home; half the 60,000 students of Bologna University live with their parents)

is the real, flesh-and-blood modern Italy, not a tourist tableau.

Not that Bologna isn't old and well preserved. Once a Roman provincial town, virtually the entire centre of the city retains a medieval appearance, with its streets fanning out, terracotta roofing everywhere, and walls of varying shades of burnt ochre. So yes, it's beautiful. But, then again, the main piazzas and palaces apart, just a bit rundown.

You won't find so many tourists in Bologna, not even in August, a Bolognese friend told me, perched proudly that at least his city had not tumbled itself up to ensnare the

touro-dollar. Every summer the tourists race past on the autostrada to Florence 50 miles away, bypassing unknowingly some of the most interesting urban development in Italy.

And in the overcast dead of winter, with the streets misty, I began to suspect I might well be the only tourist out to enjoy this unaffected affluent city of Emilia-Romagna.

Admittedly it was disappointing not to find a restaurant serving spaghetti bolognese, for so long my most ambitious step into culinary exotica (apparently *torrelloni burro e pomodoro* is much more the typical Bolognese

pasta dish, anyway), and the murky completely hid what I was assured are pretty, villa-littered Apennine hills to the south of the old town.

But this was a small price to pay for the opportunity to see modern Italy living with, and making contemporary use of, ancient Italy, unashamed of crumbling plaster, disintegrating columns and haphazard street pavings. The residents of Bologna do not live in a museum.

Of course there are the usual basilicas and galleries, sufficed to the crust in celebration of Bologna's artistic and spiritual past (Amico Aspertini's Holy Cross in the Basilica di San Petronio, El Greco's

Last Supper in the Pinacoteca Nazionale, and Uccello's *Christ's Nativity* in the Basilica di San Martino), but then, it was ruled by the Vatican for 350 years until the unification of Italy in the last century.

What I find more interesting is the display of a temporal kind of faith, which so much of Bologna suggests. Here is the oldest university in Europe, founded about 1200 AD (and probably not much redecorated since) where anatomy was taught to Dante and Petrarch; here are the remains of 40 great towers, originally built for military signalling in defence, and only later for show; and here, too, is the greatest number of arcaded pavements anywhere in the world.

The arcades are the look of Bologna. They are everywhere, and in so many styles: no street too humble for its own colonnades, from the low wooden structures of the middle ages which hang over the Palazzo Grassi, to the ecclesiastically elegant cloisters outside the church of St Giacomo Maggiore and on to the lofty, portentous 19th-century portico in front of the Bank of Italy in Via Farini.

Nor are the columns supporting the arcades necessarily consistent. In some of the busiest streets when one has been replaced by another in a different stone, a testament itself to the practical nature of this city's people.

The romantic story in Bologna, which is also famous for having the only continuous left-wing council since 1945 — the former controlling Communist party now calls itself the PDS, the party of the Democratic Left and is one half of a coalition — is that the first arcades were built in the spirit of an early co-operative movement.

According to local legend there was a famine in the countryside and the country people flocked to the city, where, unable to house them, all the local townspeople hit on the idea of covering the pavements so that the homeless would have some shelter.

To me that sounds a bit like a public relations rational-

isation for the homeless sleeping under the arches at Charing Cross in London ("Why don't we build a railway, folks, and give the vagrants a place to sleep"), and I can't help but be more easily drawn to the functional notion that the arcades were there to provide shelter from the sun in the blistering summers.

But, no doubt, and appropriately enough in this city of the people, everyone benefited, not least the modern visitor. Now there are 24 miles of arcades covering Bologna's pavements and, save for crossing roads, it is possible to walk for five miles from the centre of Bologna to the Sanctuary of St Luke's Madonna on the Della Guardia hill overlooking the town without getting either frazzled or soaked. Of course, in mid-winter you still get frozen.

For those pursuing more earnest cultural tastes, there is a permanent museum for the Bologna artist Morandi in the Piazza Maggiore, while opera at the Teatro Comunale is reckoned to be second only to Milan's La Scala. But most of all, Bologna is a city of

students and inevitably where there are young people it is the cinema that is the paramount art form, encouraged by the city-backed Cinecittà Film Archive, whose showplace, the Cinema Lumière, is on Via Pietralata.

While largely devoted to restoring old movies (there is a silent-film festival every June) the archive has more than 9,000 rare prints, including classic Russian and Soviet films assembled since the turn of the century. A three-week season of Russian films starts next Friday.

For how long Bologna will continue to be largely overlooked by tourists is difficult to predict. Restoration projects are in operation all round the town, and the municipal planners, no doubt, have more than an eye on the income to be generated by their past.

But as their neighbours in Florence have discovered, nothing comes without cost. Perhaps Bologna has got the balance between the needs of the citizens and those of the tourists just about right.

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■ British Airways (0345 222111) and Alitalia (0171-602 7111) fly direct to Bologna from Heathrow and Gatwick from £239 midweek starting on Oct 1.

■ There are many good hotels to suit most budgets. The author stayed on the edge of the old part of Bologna at Best Western's Hotel Re Enzo, Via S. Croce 26, 40122, Bologna (051 52 33 22, fax 051 55 40 35). The rate is about £75 a night for a double room with breakfast, reducing to about £50 (minimum two nights) on certain weekends in the year.

■ Italian Escapades (0181-748 266) offers three-night breaks in Bologna from £275, including flights, transfers and B&B at the three-star Hotel Alessandria, about 30 minutes from the city centre.

■ The current exchange rate is £2,400 to the £1.



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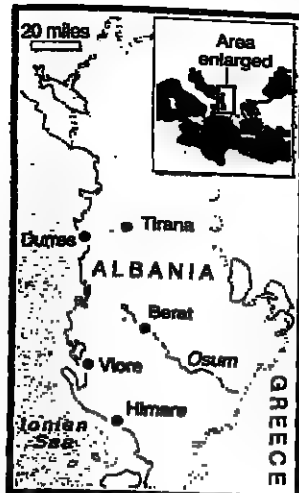
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Albania and Slovenia: Stuck in a time-warp but catching up with the 20th century; lakes and living well

Unspoilt by progress – so far Slavs to the good life



The temptation in Albania is to think small. The country is the size of Ulster and Wales combined, the population half that of London, and Tirana, the capital, is not as big as Taunton. The airport terminal is no larger than a provincial bus station and the tallest building in the land is 15 storeys high: the minarets of mosques reach halfway up.

There is one section of dual carriageway six kilometres long, the railway system is minuscule and the two seaports make Ramsgate look like Rotterdam. Donkeys, mules and pony traps outnumber bicycles. The country might be in a time-warp, with the second half of the 20th century yet to happen.

In a sense, this is true. For 46 years, Albania was an isolated society, struggling under the most repressive of regimes. Its Communist leader, Enver Hoxha, transformed it into an Orwellian militarist state, airbrushed the past out of existence and alerted every citizen to the impending Western-inspired invasion.

Of the 10,000 motor vehicles on the road, 95 per cent were military: it was illegal to own a car. All religions were proscribed. However, Hoxha died in 1985, his wife is behind bars and his successor recently released from house arrest. A new era is dawning.

What Albania (more correctly Shqipëria) lacks in modernity, it makes up for in history. For three millennia, it has been methodically overrun. Originally the legendary kingdom of Illyria, it has been marched over by Greeks, Romans, Goths, Huns, Byzantines, Bulgars, Normans, Serbs, Venetians, Turks, Italians and, finally, Marxists. The consequences are a bewitching cultural hotchpotch.

The language is musical but impenetrable and semantically unique. Squat Ottoman houses rub eaves with Italian fascist buildings and socialist concrete cubes. Renovated mosques co-exist beside rejuvenated Greek Orthodox churches. Citadelles occupy mountain summits, the Roman Via Egnatia cuts through en route for the old Constantinople, rural villages look like sets for a medieval drama, and Illyrian and



The Ethem Bey mosque in Tirana's Skenderbeg Square is one of the most important in Albania but religion was proscribed under Hoxha

Greek ruins lurk in the countryside. After five decades of being denied their history, the Albanians are discovering it. Ylli, my taxi driver, asked me if I knew of a mosaic at Arapaj, thought to be the remains of the Norman church of St Michael, built in 1081. He had stumbled on it the day before and marvelled over the fact.

To travel through Albania is to experience the last of unspoilt Europe. The rivers are as clear as green glass and so clean you can swim in many of them. Roadside springs provide ice-cold drinking water. The roads are narrow and leave much to be desired, with potholes so large they should have names, but the landscape is exquisite. Ancient stone villages nestle in

olive groves and cornfields, blizzarded by butterflies and framed by backdrops of forests inhabited by bears and mountains roamed by wolves. Albania has vistas to rival all but the high Swiss Alps. The coast is as spectacular as it is untrammelled. South of Vlorë, Albania's second seaport, the only road traverses the Llogora Pass where the Çika mountains plunge for 3,000ft into the Ionian Sea. The long, pristine beaches, approachable only by tracks from the road, are deserted.

In 50 miles of shore, there are only 12 villages and one picturesque small town, Himara, which Philip of Macedonia attacked in 214 BC, where Julius Caesar was nearly shipwrecked and the infamous Ali Pasha Tepelena, an acquaintance of Byron, slaughtered 6,000 townsfolk in 1797. If Albania had tourist brochures, this would be called the *Bregdeti Historike* – the History Coast. The towns can be as beautiful as the landscape. Berat, 70 miles from Tirana, nestles on the banks of the Osum river, below a substantial citadel. High on a ridge, it contains occupied houses which were old when Sultan Murad I invaded in 1385, and a cannon donated by Lord Nelson. Here, too, is a museum dedicated to the work of Onufri, the most famous of all medieval icon painters. Below the citadel, clinging to the precipitous rock above the river, all the buildings are Ottoman, the

modern suburb neither dwarfing nor stifling them. Bars, cafes and restaurants line the river, serving Turkish coffee, whole sheep roasted over a spit, local beer, wine and *raki*, the Albanian version of the traditional Balkan schnapple-like tipple which here one is expected to sip, not down in one breath-rasping gulp.

Just as delightful are the Albanians. Foreigners are not regarded simply as tourists to be tolerated for their wallets nor envied for their wrist-watches. They are considered more as travellers were a century ago, to be welcomed and questioned, not mugged or ripped off. Conversation is not difficult: someone will speak English, a good number speak Italian and everyone wants to talk.

Indicative of Albanian hospitality was the treatment my son and I received in the Ethem Bey mosque in Tirana, one of the most important in the nation. The imam himself instructed us to keep our shoes on: the prayer carpets were rolled back to allow us guided access, not only to the mosque, but the women's gallery and the minaret. This was not done to gain a donation, but

because we had shown interest in his holy establishment. Times are changing, however. There are now 300,000 vehicles on Albanian roads, a significant number of them stolen from all over Europe and smuggled in by the mafia: a former Royal Mail van delivers vegetables in Tirana. Designer jeans are arriving from Italy, counterfeit cigarettes from Macedonia and Coca-Cola from America.

In Berat, recently designated a World Heritage City, there is hardly a building without a satellite dish, and a 15ft-high Coca-Cola bottle stands alongside the minaret of the early 19th-century Mosque of the Bachelors.

Albania is in a state of flux and needs discovering before it is too late. The Albanians have noted what happened to the Spanish costas and are determined not to destroy their heritage. However, they may yet be corrupted by the glint of tourist gold. The word is to get to this fabulous feast as quickly as possible in case all that remains are crumbs.

MARTIN BOOTH
The author was a guest of Swissair and the Hotel Europapark.

Dogs of war barked briefly in Slovenia, for ten days or so back in June 1991 when it broke away from Yugoslavia. Since then, this small Alpine nation, tucked between Austria, Italy and Croatia, with its engaging baroque towns and soaring mountains, has quietly and steadily raced ahead of its former Yugoslav neighbours.

Suggest to a Slovene that Slovenia is part of the Balkans and he will recoil in horror, and perhaps rightly, for independent Slovenia is an economic success story. Slovenes have a per capita income of over £6,000 per head, the highest of all Europe's former Communist states.

This colourful new tile in Europe's ethnic mosaic may once have shared a government and currency with Serbia, Bosnia and Macedonia, but federation with Austria would have made more sense. German is the second language here and you are as likely to spot a loden-coat-wearing businessman in the capital Ljubljana as in Linz in neighbouring Austria.

The language, Slovene, is southern Slavic, but the Slovene mentality is more Germanic than Slavic, which is not surprising as Slovenia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, ruled from Vienna. The only sign that Slovenia was part of eastern Europe's communist empire is the truculent policemen (visitors should carry passports at all times) and the box-like architecture that can mar beauty spots such as Lake Bled.

Slovenia's tourist industry is recovering from the war down the road, although even at the height of the fighting in Bosnia a visit to Slovenia was no more risky than to neighbouring Hungary. Even so, a glance at a map was enough to put off potential visitors but now Slovenes hope that as peace replaces strife in the former Yugoslav war zone, and the region stabilises, the tourists will return en masse.

They would be right to do so. From the beauty of Lake Bled, surrounded by tree-lined slopes and overlooked by a castle, to the bustle of the lively capital Ljubljana, with its bars and cafes, and small towns such as Ptuj, Slovenia is an enjoyable cocktail of architecture, culture, history, scenery and excellent white wines, in my view the best in the region.

Ljubljana, perched on the river Ljubljanica, is the best place to take the pulse of one of Europe's newest states. Take a walk around the old town, by the river, where baroque architecture retains the flavour of the city in its Hapsburg glory days. Energetic visitors should trek up to the castle, that once defended Ljubljana, for a beautiful view of this mini-metropolis. As well as



attractive architecture, Ljubljana has the liveliest nightlife in the former Yugoslavia, apart from Belgrade. Spiced with Italian influences in clothes and coffee, Ljubljana is a heady brew of buzzing bars and cafes, especially around Presernov Trg (square).

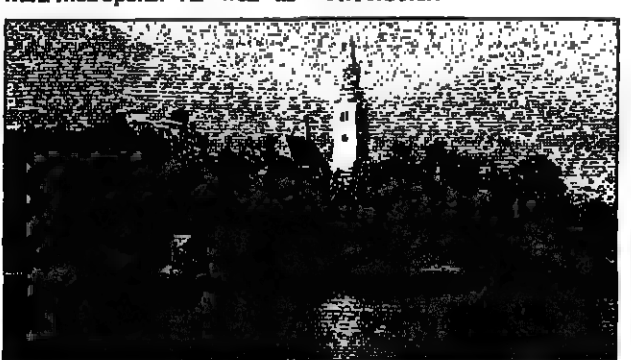
Wind down from Ljubljana at Lake Bled, one of Europe's most scenic beauty spots. Tucked away in the ages-old embrace of the surrounding mountains, overlooked by a castle as romantic as anything Disney could conjure up, Lake Bled is restful and romantic, a place to cement a new romance or revitalise an old one.

In the tourist season, when the lake thaws from the winter freeze, there are rowing boats for hire, as well as bicycles and canoes. Pack a picnic and row out to the middle of the lake to Bled Island, and visit the aptly-named Church of Our Lady of the Lake. Otherwise the best way to enjoy Bled is to walk along its shores, or up the steep paths that cut through the woods up to the castle. That itself is unremarkable, but the view is one of Europe's finest and the restaurant terrace is a good spot for lunch.

Accommodation at Lake Bled is reasonably priced. Double rooms with a balcony over the lake (ask for a room with a view), are about £45. Slovenia's second city, Maribor, lacks both the charm and nightlife of Ljubljana. Head instead for the charming town of Ptuj, overlooking the river Drava. Ptuj is rich in baroque and medieval architecture and has its own castle, with an engaging museum packed with paintings of stern Ottoman dignitaries and an amusing collection of ramshackle Austrian musical instruments. Like Slovenia, it's a cocktail of central Europe's eclectic history.

ADAM LEBOR

Adria Airways (0171-734 4030) has return flights to Ljubljana from Heathrow from £241. Slovenia Pursuits (01763 853660) offers a week B2B in a hotel at Lake Bled from £350, or a week in Ljubljana from £375, with flights from Heathrow. Further information from the Slovenian Tourist Office, 0171-372 3667.



Remote Lake Bled: one of Europe's beauty spots



Traditional costume

ALBANIA FACT FILE

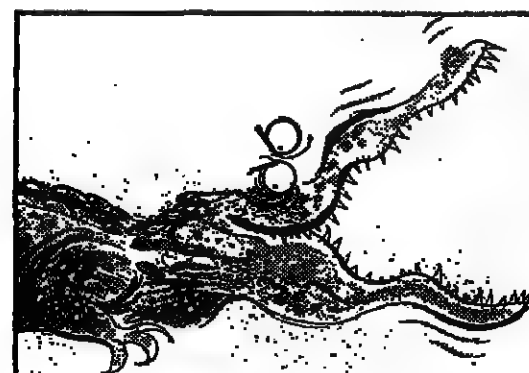
Swissair (0171-439 4144) offers flights to Albania via Zurich for £839 return, but promotional fares are available with Alitalia (0171-602 7111) via Rome, £839 return; with Lufthansa (0345 737147) via Frankfurt, £862 return. A taxi ride from Rinas airport, 15 miles from Tirana, costs about £15-£20 (no airport buses).

Overland, by car-ferry from Bari or Brindisi in Italy to Durres, a diesel 4x4 vehicle is best because unleaded petrol is scarce and roads can be rough. In Tirana, Hotel Europapark (355 42 35035), of international 5-star standard, charges about £125 a night for a double room (£98 single), including a substantial smorgasbord-type breakfast and all taxes. Other hotels are the Tirana International (42 34185) and the Dajti (42 27662) the old Communist hotel, if you want to imagine George Smiley or Graham Greene walking down the corridor: tariffs slightly lower. Elsewhere in Albania, local hotels are available at a wide range of standards and prices. Eating out is cheap and good, restaurants and bars are numerous.

Public transport is chaotic, as is driving. Hire a car with a driver. Cost depends on distance. A Mercedes and driver costs £70 for a full day for a journey of up to 200 miles. Negotiate the price before hiring. All drivers are courteous, very obliging and likely to show you unknown sights at no extra cost.

US dollars are accepted everywhere: sterling is roundly rejected. The local currency is the lek. Change money in Tirana from street money vendors. They are technically illegal, but allowed, and their rate is up to 15 per cent better than the official changers. Take and demand only pristine bills. Credit cards are unknown outside the hotels mentioned above.

Albania is best visited between late March and June when the land is a carpet of wild flowers and from late September to mid-November. Recommended reading, *The Blue Guide* (A.C. Black, £12.99) is comprehensive but contains some glaring errors. *Albania* by Dawson & White (Bradt, £10.95) gives a good feel for the country. Maps available from bookstalls in Tirana.



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Sailing: Learning the hard way on a voyage through the South Seas islands aboard the tall ship *Soren Larsen*

Before the mast in a gale-whipped sea

WE SAW the ominous mass approaching across the sea and raced to reef down the sails and secure the ropes that littered the decks. As the squall hit, the ship turned into a writhing monster, slapping relentlessly into the swell and shuddering along her full length. My stomach lurched with the vessel, but the exhilaration of fighting against the deluge blocked all other sensations.

A voyage on the *Soren Larsen* is a far cry from luxury cruises spent reclining in the sun. Brute force and teamwork are required. It is a sensational experience. The brigantine is one of the last of the elegant breed of tall ships that plough the seas as ghosts from a bygone age, the creaking of the wooden panels and flexing of beams her continual complaint.

The ship, which became famous in the BBC series *The Onedin Line*, now hosts trips among the South Pacific islands, hopping between the tropical playgrounds of Tahiti, Tonga, Western Samoa, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia.

When the gales subsided we retreated into the galley and munched fresh ginger cake, backed by the rousing theme from *The Onedin Line*. That night, blessed with a full moon, we watched pairs of dolphins leaping before the bow. Spectacular explosions of phosphorescence pulsed like neon rain alongside the ship and were swallowed in its wake. At 3am two crew members were dispatched to bake the next day's bread.

Our multinational crew gathered in the outer reaches of the Kingdom of Tonga to explore the world's most exotic seas aboard the classic vessel. We included a Scottish shopkeeper, Kiwi sheep farmers and a Second World War veteran, our ages stretching between 23 and 74. The passage covered 491 nautical miles between the Vava'u Islands, to the north of Tonga, across to Western Samoa.

When we boarded the ship at the ramshackle port of Neiafu in central Vava'u, her owner, Captain Tony Davies, promised us "an experience". Even he had little idea that this would include force seven gales, torrential rain and a run in with a barracuda. Yet the romance of 19th-century seafaring in the spirit of Captain Cook surpassed everything — especially when the sun broke through and the temperature soared to 34C.

The ship bears the name of the Danish builders who constructed her entirely of oak in the 1940s. She is 145ft long and was refitted with two 98ft masts and 12 sails encompassing 6,750sq ft of canvas. At full sail she is a magnificent sight. The ship accommodates up to 23 guests and 12 crew in compact cabins with bunk beds and basins. There are three freshwater showers and marine lavatories. A cook ensures hearty meals, served at elm tables in the saloon or out on the main deck. We never saw hard biscuits and there was an



The *Soren Larsen*, her twin 98ft masts bared, at anchor in a South Seas bay

amply stocked bar for when the sun dipped below the yardarm. Paying guests, or "voyage crew", are encouraged to help run the ship, doing everything from hauling the vast sails to swabbing the decks and peeling potatoes. No previous sailing experience is necessary.

I have tinkered about on boats from an early age but had little advantage over beginners when it came to sailing the square-rigger. There are no winches or cleats on board. Tacking is a big operation which involves bringing round the headsails, bracing the top sails and hauling across the mainsail to shouts of "two six heave". We slowly mastered our positions at the braces and learnt how to "lay back" on the main sheet to prevent it whipping out over the side. Correctly identifying the plethora of ropes or sheets proved beyond us all.

After 11 days of hauling on sheets and climbing the rigging — which almost everyone shinned up eventually — my hands toughened, unconfined toes began to spread, and I discovered muscles I hadn't known I possessed.

The challenge of overcoming personal fears profoundly affected passengers. With help from the crew, John, a marvellous English rogue in his seventies, shinned 50ft up the rigging and waved at us from the crow's-nest. In mid-voyage his wife, Jean, donned a lifejacket to overcome childhood aquaphobia and went swimming for the first time ever. The gardens of fan coral and electric blue reef fish reduced her to tears.

Sailing was interspersed with island stops to explore the stunning outer reaches of the Pacific. On Nuapapu island the more proficient swimmers dived several metres to the entrance of Marieners Cave. We were rewarded with a surreal journey through eerily glowing water and into a cavernous hollow crowned with stalactites.

Tall ship life is addictive for many. The

young Australian purser traded in a city career to keep the voyage accounts, clean lavatories and change bedsheets. She declared herself never happier.

The crew, a bronzed and brawny international band, shared a genuine attachment to the ship and pride in its maintenance. They arranged a pirate party, sea shanty sessions, windsurfing and snorkelling sorties out to the reefs. When the proximity of life at sea got too much they spent time out perched in the rigging or swinging whooping out to sea on a rope attached to the yardarm.

The wide-eyed reaction of many islanders to the tall ship drove home the rarity of our experience. On Kapa, in the Vava'u group, a young girl welcomed us into her village, overrun with pigs and chickens, and stared at the ship in amazement. "Big ship," she whispered. "Beautiful."

We were roused from a postlunch stupor when a shark was spotted tracking the ship. Gilles, the ship's French engineer and angler, had snagged a temptingly large tuna. The next day we feasted on fresh fish washed down with fruity New Zealand wine.

DURING the three-day crossing between nations we fully entered the rhythm of the ship's life. We were divided into twice-daily four-hour watches and held responsible for keeping a lookout, manning the helm and updating the log. It took time to find our sea legs, particularly on rough days when the swell topped four metres (about 13ft-14ft). Surprisingly, it was the members of the crew who spent the most time getting intimate with the side rail or "talking to Neptune", as they say. Many of us had downed too many seasickness pills to feel much at all.

Our passage took us over the International Date Line from east to west and we were rewarded with seeing in two Sundays in a row.

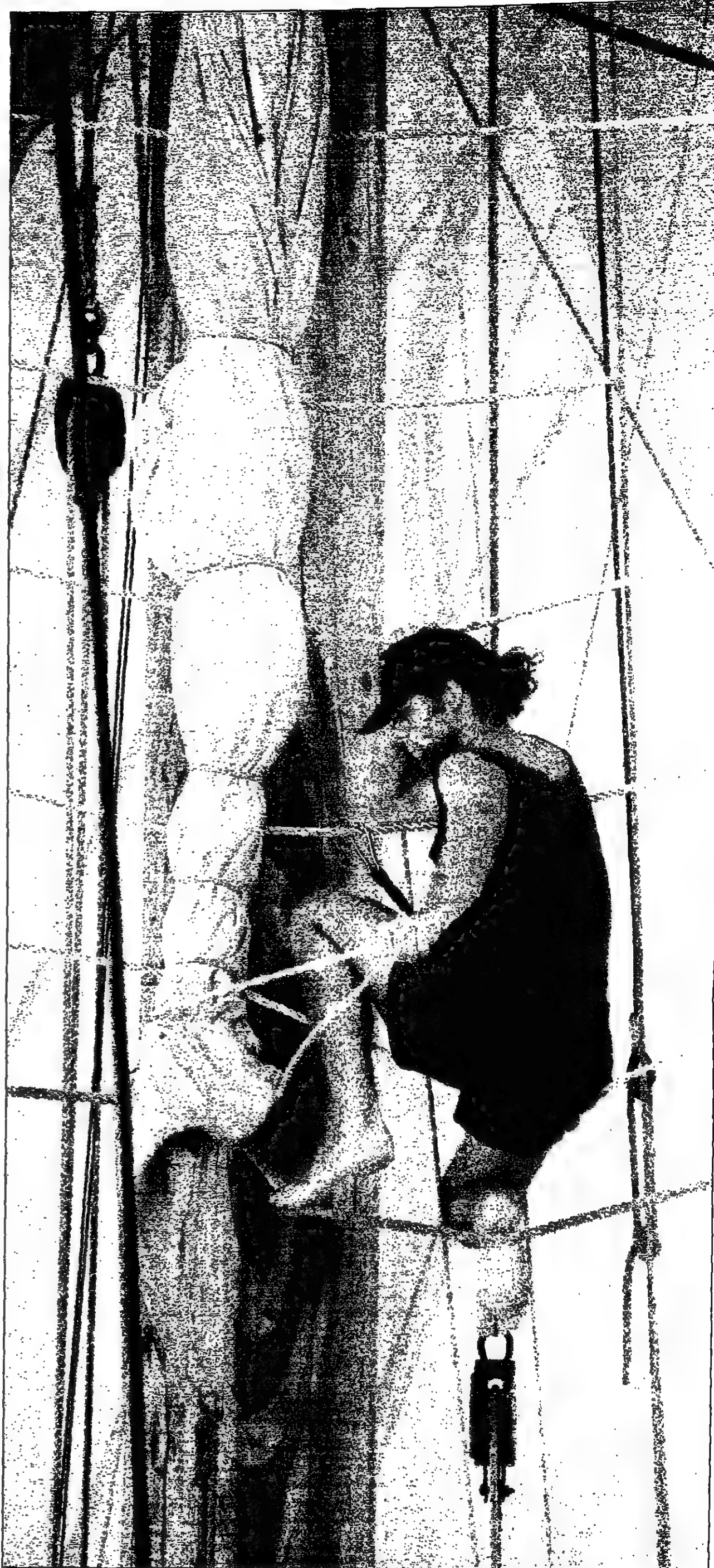
The *Soren Larsen* has clocked up more than 150,000 nautical miles in the past decade, Tony Davies found the former Baltic trader in a derelict state in Denmark in the late 1970s. He persuaded the BBC to help refit her as a traditional brigantine for *The Onedin Line* and subsequent work in *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *Shackleton*.

She later became a Jubilee Sailing Trust vessel for the disabled and flag ship to the bicentennial First Fleet Re-enactment voyage to Australia via the Horn. In 1992 she was class winner in the Gran Regatta Columbus and Tall Ships race across the Atlantic. She is now based in Auckland. The ship's New Zealand company, Square Sail Pacific, reports a 30 per cent return rate of passengers, about 75 per cent of them British.

We reeled of emotion when we parted at the bustling old world port of Apia, where Robert Louis Stevenson is buried. But on our last night there was a spectacular display of sheet lightning over the harbour, lighting up the island like a film set. It seemed a fitting finale to the experience of a lifetime.

MARIANNE DARCH

● The author was a guest of Explore Worldwide aboard the *Soren Larsen*.



After 11 days, hands toughened from hauling sheets and swabbing decks, almost everyone aboard shinned up the mast



Taking the helm is part of training

INFORMATION LOG

■ Voyages aboard the *Soren Larsen* are bookable through Explore Worldwide (01252 319449). The next available voyage in the 19th-century brigantine is the deep-sea passage across the Tasman Sea from Sydney to Auckland, via the Bay of Islands. Departing by air from London on October 18, this will be classic ocean sailing at its best, with a chance to learn the basics of navigation and seamanship.

■ The 17-day voyage costs £2,349, including return flights from London, hotel accommodation in Sydney and Auckland (one night in each), full board during the voyage, and tuition. The voyage alone costs £1,220.

■ From next January to March, a series of eight-day voyages are planned around the coast of New Zealand. In May, the ship sets sail for Tonga and a six-month tour of the South Pacific. Prices start at £477 for an eight-day voyage. Air fares and land accommodation extra.

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WORD WATCHING

LARRUP
(c) To beat, flog, thrash, hence larruping. Jack the Giant-Killer, 1833-4: "Drinking success to the hero stout/Who larruped the Giants out and out."

MORMYRUS
(a) A fish of the African genus *Mormyrus*. An adaptation of the Greek *mormyros* (corruptly *mormylos*). "The Mormyrus. This is a very singularly marked species. The body oblong, the head elongated."

MORMAOR
(c) In ancient Scotland, a high steward of a province. From the Gaelic *mór* great + *maor* a bailiff or steward. "Macbeth being introduced as a king, by the English Chronicle, before he was even a mormaor."

LARON
A robber. From the Old French *laron*, Latin *latro*, *latronem* a robber. Archbishop Ussher, [dodgy] *Annals*, 1656: "But like a very laron, sought to strip his brother of all that he had in his necessity."

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TRAVEL

21

Britain: A couple put themselves in the hands of a health farm; a not-so-healthy break in Hampshire

THE WIFE

ON MY first day at Champneys I fell asleep three times before supper. Once after being tucked up post-massage like a baby on a reclining chair in a dark room by a clucking matronly figure. Then during a "relaxation" class, and again after an aromatherapy session.

Champneys is as sure to wind you down as under-heated saunas and overcrowded swimming pools are to wind you up. For a start, the 19th-century former Rothschild home, set in silence and 170 acres of parkland, is only 50 minutes from central London. And once there you don't need to move: beauty treatments, classes (archery, juggling) and lectures (Understanding Victorian Painting) are on site; your bed is never far away and you don't ever need to get out of your Champneys dressing gown.

Four days is the recommended time to profit most, but many people use Champneys, as we did, for a weekend of massages, meals and mental destitution. Other guests ranged from a hen party to a party of three couples who were making a weekend of it. Other couples were women friends or husbands and wives. Everyone

carries a personal Daily Appointment Schedule to ensure that they don't miss the treatments — of which a steam bath, massage and facial are included in the room rate — and classes. The average age of guests is 41, but at a Stretch and Flex class I attended it appeared to be 61. Do not feel you have to enter a frenetic routine in preparation for this health farm: we sat on chairs and rotated our ankles.

DURING the rest of the weekend I surrendered to saunas and melted beneath massages and aromatherapy baths for pregnancy (for my three-month condition). However, of all the activities on offer, it was a woodland walk in sun and showers that proved the weekend's highlight. You need it after the hours of hushed respect for the honing and toning of healthy people.

If the routine can appear monochrome, mealtimes add colour. Generous side plates are used for main courses and a restraining calorie count is printed beside each dish but the food is very good: fresh (Champneys has a kitchen



Expensive and self-indulgent, the Champneys' regime is likely to kickstart you into a healthier lifestyle

garden), well presented and interesting. Breakfast is dominated by fruit, lunch by vegetable salads, and our Saturday dinner, where guests replace their robes with jersey trouser suits or jackets and ties, was broccoli and mint soup (salt and pepper free), fillet of beef with wild mushrooms and polenta, and a cheese platter. You certainly leave Champneys lighter of weight and mood, sparkling eyed and loosened. Whether its health

benefits outweigh those gained from a weekend of 12-mile walks is debatable. Also, considering its treatments for pregnant women, I was surprised by the limited availability of proteins such as hard cheese, eggs and milk. However, a weekend here will certainly kickstart you into a healthier lifestyle — you're bound to decide on a yoghurt and fruit breakfast on Monday.

SARAH HARDING



THE HUSBAND

PAYING to be coaxed from head to toe in cold, thick Austrian mud, wrapped in rubber sheeting and submerged in a vibrating water trough may sound fetishistic to the uninitiated but, according to the therapists at Champneys, it's one of their most popular new treatments.

It costs £37 and involves several generous dollops of imported organic mud which,

according to the guide, releases tensions while acting as a diuretic and skin toner. Colette, the charming woman who had the unenviable task of slapping it all on, is no doubt an expert in her field, but, after 45 minutes of lying in a mummified state, the only relief I could admit to was being able to shower it all off afterwards.

If, like me, you have a massage every ten years, and think nothing of washing your hair with a bar of soap

when there's no shampoo, Champneys will unnerve you. Preconceptions that health farms are associated with hardship and colonic irrigation fly out of the chintz-curtained windows the moment you glance at the services on offer.

You can warm up with Neuro Linguistic Programming ("a detailed computerised dietary analysis": 1 hour for £55) and a Body Composition Assessment (the "latest technology to determine your lean body mass and fat percentage": £20.50) before progressing to Catholodermie ("complete deep cleansing for all skin types": 1 hour 25 minutes for £47), and still have time for a sauna before lunch. I decided to break myself in gently with a steam bath and a game of squash.

There were many things I loved about our weekend — the massages, the sauna and plunge baths carefully monitored by the friendly and nonsensical Gary, the gourmet food, and our elegant bedroom overlooking acres of landscaped gardens. The pool was spotless, the water a perfect temperature. There is also no sense of emasculation.

Women barely outnumber men, who can have a manicure before attacking the full-size snooker table.

But despite the treatments and the emphasis on relaxation, I found myself increasingly irritated by the expensive, self-indulgent regime. Another source of tension was eating in dressing gowns, something I avoid at home. Having to eat breakfast and lunch surrounded by strangers with nothing on under their towelling robes except a gold Rolex and perfume is, for me, a more effective diet than any computer-aided treatment.

At 32, I'm probably too young, and perhaps even too fit, to have reaped all the benefits of Champneys. For as we pulled out of the Lexus-lined driveway I couldn't help feeling just a hint of relief as we headed back to the unhealthy delights of London.

TIM WILLCOX

© The authors were guests of Champneys, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6HY (reservations: 01442 873155, £100 deposit required). Weekend Champneys, a three-night break with all meals, daily massage and facial, is from £498 per person (double occupancy), £558 (single). A two-night break (not weekends), Discovering Champneys, is from £330 per person.

Count the courses not the calories

I like the idea of losing weight, having beauty treatments and being forced to relax. I do not at all like the idea of stopping eating and drinking.

So I went to Chewton Glen, a swanky country house hotel in 70 acres between the New Forest and the south coast. The food is copious, the treatments divine and the hotel built so that the gardens seem to dance into the corridors where Barbour, yellowing OS maps, bowls of apples, and pairs of Wellington boots are archly arranged to create a Bertie Wooster atmosphere.

At one-ish a helicopter arrives. Guests step out and stroll to the dining room. They

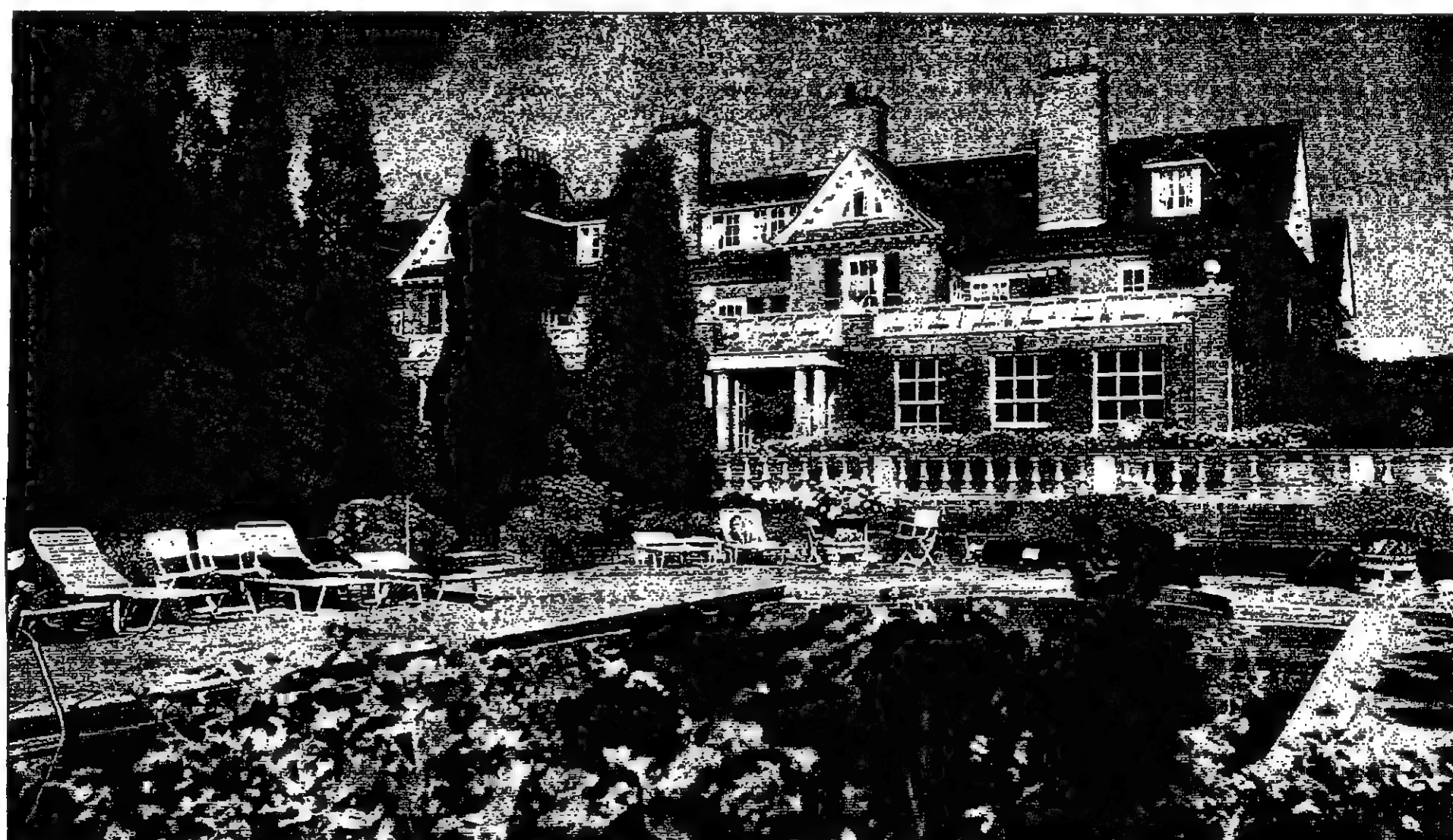
have flown here from Berkshire and my friend has her eye on the young man. He is delicious: but we are here to become beautiful, not to pursue men in helicopters.

And anyway the manager of Chewton Glen, Peter Crome (a former Savoy manager), is a Stephen Fry lookalike and he is joining us for dinner, which is a cheering thought as we swim our 18th length of the picturesque pool (with vast windows and a sky-painted ceiling so that even backstroke is tolerable).

We decide that 20 lengths should allow us to ease into the svelte frocks hanging in our three-acre wardrobes. That, and a stint in the steam room. It is far too hot. I panic and heave at the door. I am locked in. I am about to expire. James Bond style, when an American looms out of the mist at the far (far hotter) end of the steam room and points out that we should push, not pull the door.

At the health spa my friend buys a pair of fabulous orange shorts, which emphasise the fact that she has legs up to her armpits, and then heads for the gym. An instructor puts her on a step machine and leaves her there for 20 minutes sweating over statistics about how many calories she is burning. Roughly a KitKat's worth by the end, so she won't be trying that again.

Still wearing The Shorts she suggests a walk. We cover miles of the 70-acre landscaped park with streams and trees and bluebells and find a door in the wall which takes us down a so-called bunny gully with a stream to you and me and very pretty too) and, ten minutes later, we are saunter-



Chewton Glen has a pool, gym and tennis courts, but visitors planning a health-orientated stay may find unbearable temptations in the form of calorie-laden food

ing beside the sea. The Isle of Wight is in the distance, there is ghostly architecture along the shore, and the siren call of Chewton Glen's restaurant. We have eaten practically nothing apart from the odd cottage pie since breakfast in bed: muesli mix, Danish pastries and pain au chocolat. We canter back to the restaurant.

Stephen Fry is waiting, twining his cuffs in rather the same way as the Prince of Wales. He is a new boy compared with some of the staff who have worked at Chewton Glen since Martin and Brigine Skan took it over, a leaky-roofed eight-bed coaching inn, 22 years ago. They love the place and so make it lovely for their guests.

Asparagus arrives delirious with butter, huge, sauce-smothered scallops follow. The finale is a vast crème brûlée, and a cheese trolley so huge it has to be hauled across the dining room by a team of serving staff. Dream on all you health farms, this is the way to wind up a hard day in the spa.

A rock-world couple add glamour to a table by the windows overlooking the gardens and, in the centre, a party of immaculately-groomed Americans. One is the head of a large conglomerate but we don't stare one bit.

We don't even ask questions when the hotel begins to swarm with security personnel as we leave in the morning. The whole of this 54-room hotel is being taken over for a couple of days. Stephen Fry refuses to divulge who is coming. He shoots his cuffs, unfastened to the last.

JANE OWEN

© The author was a guest of Chewton Glen, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6QS (01425 255341). Double rooms including breakfast and table d'hôte from £283 per person. Price includes unlimited use of pool, gym, sauna,

Oddly enough, even bargain hunters get distracted under these conditions.



Seven hundred shops, from Timberland shoes to American jeans, romantically nestled on a tree-lined avenue. Even a zealous shopper would have a hard time keeping an eye out for great American values when there is so much else to see and do. For a chance to win a shopping weekend in Chicago, Illinois, compliments of American Airlines and the Regal Knickerbocker Hotel, send this coupon to: Illinois Bureau of Tourism, 20 Barclay Road, Croydon CR0 1JN. Tel: 01737 645 233. Internet: <http://www.enjoyillinois.com>. Offer closes 4.11.96.

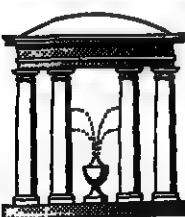
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SPA GUIDE



■ **Healthy Breaks** by Catherine Beattie (Discovery Books, £9.99) is a useful guide to health farms, spas and hotels in Britain and Ireland as well as self-catering holiday villages such as Center Parcs. ■ **Some holiday firms**, such as Blakes (01282 445544), offer self-catering accommodation with access to health facilities.

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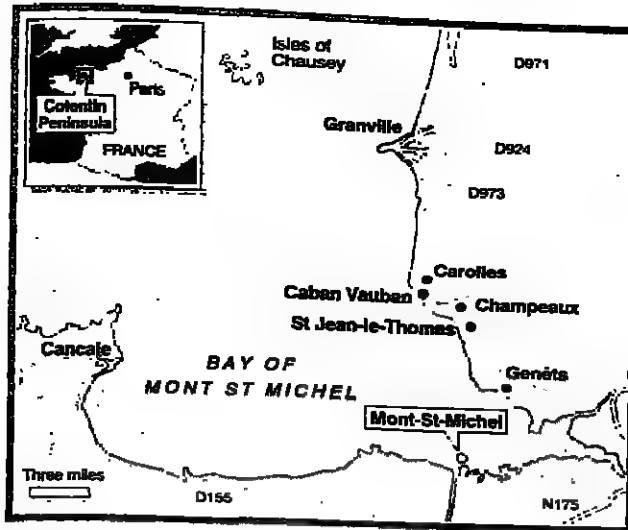
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SWANSEA CORK FERRIES

Normandy: A coastal walk of discovery that includes 'the prettiest kilometre in France'; a Gallic Rosie Lee



Magic of the miracle mount

I sat on a wall gazing out to sea, a baguette in one hand and a wedge of Camembert in the other. My wife Kate was at my side, eight-week-old Adam lay at our feet, the sun was shining and I felt as if I were in heaven. Sheep grazed and geese cackled on the salt marshes between us and the sea. Behind them, four miles away, was the 11th-century abbey of Mont St Michel, silhouetted in the haze on its island fortress as the tides closed in. I sat entranced, as meadows flooded and mudflats turned to sea, and the question kept returning to my mind: how did it get there? How did the

Gorse and wild cherry carpet the rocky cliffs?

This was our first holiday with Adam and we were determined not to let his arrival stop us walking — he was happy to be carried in a baby sling close to our chests. We were on the GF (Grande Randonnée) 223, on the west coast of Normandy's Cotentin peninsula. The full walk is more than 150 miles, from the fishing port of Barleur to Mont St Michel, but we were concentrating on a short stretch south of Granville, in the area known as La Baie, the bay of Mont St Michel, dominated by the abbey. We started out from Caroules, a popular summer resort but pleasantly deserted in October, and headed for the Vallée du Lude. This forest valley, where Azorean iris and Himalayan balsam thrive in a rare subtropical microclimate, is said to have been carved out by a sword thrust from St

Michael in his battle with Satan. This is the same St Michael who appeared to the Bishop of Avranches in the 8th century, thrusting a finger into his head to tell him that he was to build a chapel on Mont Tombe.

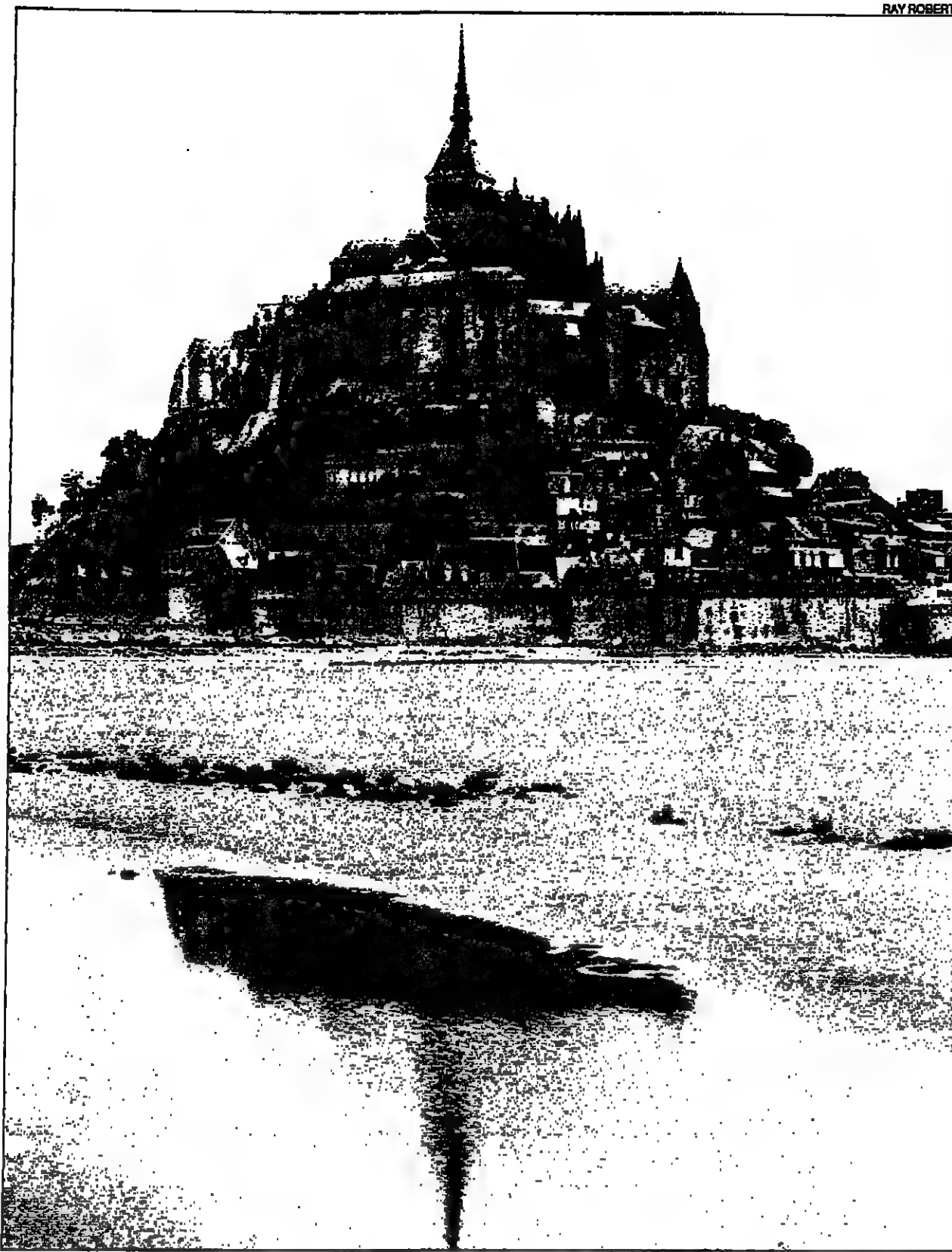
The path soon reached the Caban Vauban, a 17th-century lookout with views to Brittany and the Isles of Chausey, even to Jersey on a good day.

Another mile of scrambling along rocky cliffs brought us back on to the road at Champeaux and a beauty spot known as Les Falaises, where the cliffs are carpeted with gorse and wild cherry in spring. The local tourist board claims this is "the prettiest kilometre in France", and it was hard to disagree as we looked out over the expanse of silvery sand flats glistening in the sun at low tide.

It's not a bad kilometre for gourmets, either, with three restaurants competing for customers and sea views. At the Marquise de Tombelaine I chose the menu du terroir of Norman specialities — oysters cooked in cream, warm Camembert, and Calvados mousse.

From Champeaux the path turns inland to St Jean-le-Thomas before returning to the shore to follow the sand dunes to Genêts.

This small village is the centre of the Mont St Michel pilgrimage industry, with daily barefoot walks across the sand in summer and mass crossings in July. Whatever you do, do not try crossing without a guide: too many others have failed. The tides in the bay are the highest in Europe; at full and new moon they advance ten miles at a yard a second, crashing against the abbey ramparts in a dramatic spectacle.



At low tide, the island fortress of Mont St Michel, with its imposing abbey, can be reached on foot — but only with a guide

As the tourist season ends, the winter pilgrims arrive — barnacle geese, which flock here from Siberia each October. Wigeon and mallard come, too, attracted by the plants, rich in salt and iodine, which grow on marshes washed daily by the sea.

The local *pré salé* lamb, fed on wild samphire, is known throughout France and is best grilled without further seasoning. Oysters and mussels thrive, too, and are gathered from the mud at low tide.

So what about Mont St Michel itself? After two days of coastal walks and seeing it from afar, we wanted a closer look, but we chose a day when all of France was on strike, and weary tourists were trudging up the abbey steps only to find a "closed" notice pinned to the door.

We settled for an omelette at Mère Poulard's, cooked in a copper pan over an open fire, and paid more than £10 each

for the privilege. The walls were adorned with photographs and photos of distinguished visitors — Leon Trotsky sat provocatively above Margaret Thatcher, Maurice Chevalier rubbed shoulders with Ernest Hemingway.

Next time I'll stick to walking, and see Mont St Michel at its best — across the sand, without tourists or shops or overpriced restaurants. After all, the tides still go in and out even when there's a strike.

TONY KELLY

● The walk is covered on the IGN Serie Bleue map 1215 est, available in local newsagents and bookshops.
● Restaurants: Marquise de Tombelaine, Champeaux (33 61 85 94). Menu du terroir, Fr150 (about £30); other menus from Fr50-£35.
● For further details call Mont St Michel tourist board on 33 60 14 30 or France Information on 0891 244123

Talk of the tearooms

As the autumn crispens, it becomes imperative to have a good *salon de thé* mapped into your route across Paris. Once oddities, tea shops are now available in every *arrondissement*, from the traditional ones started last century to the newest and hippest in the Marais.

If, after a long, cold walk, you wish to sink into a squishy armchair and a perfect *tarte Tatin* (caramelised apple tart), the tearoom is the only sensible solution. My favourite is *Ladurée*, by the *Madeline*, also convenient for women who dedicate their lives to shopping in the Rue du Faubourg St Honoré. The green-and-gold-canopied shop opened in 1862, and inside it looks as if it has not been painted since the ceilings abound with badly executed cupids and the walls are mirrored and gilded to the nines. The clientele is gilded, too: no earring is too small here, no bag sleep too shiny, no shoe without its Gucci snaffle. Women of a certain age lunch here and scoff enormous pastries without a gold button popping.

The waitresses are properly dressed with frilly pinnies, and the service is friendly, because customers often have to change tables to cement social connections. Outside, a crowd usually surrounds the windows, taking in what can only be described as a pornographic display. There is a full-size chocolate bust of Marie Antoinette, with meringues and roses for hair and a bustier of macaroons. Nearby are pastries, eclairs, tiny and giant tarts bursting with glazed fruit.

Ladurée is not cheap; that is the point. Tea at a marble-

topped table varies between Fr31 and Fr35 (about £4 to £4.50), depending on which exquisite variety you order, and comes with leaves in the silver pot and a marching silver hot water jug. A croissant is Fr7, pastries about Fr20. For a light lunch, the Fr51 *tarte aux poireaux* (leeks) with a green salad, is much favoured. The pastry flakes and melts, the egg barely restrains chunks of both *Ladurée*.

The French favour *Ladurée*, while the tourists are sent to the more expensive *Angelina*. This is Paris's most famous tearoom, with Versailles-style mirrors and murals. For Fr36 *Angelina* does the best hot chocolate in Paris, with melted chocolate bars and whipped cream in bowls. A glass of water is supplied to calm the customer. However, souvenirs and the clientele make the place look like Tokyo or New York.

Down in the Marais, there has been an outbreak of newer tearooms, satisfying in a different way. The most comforting is *Les Enfants Gâtés* on the Rue Frères-Bourgeois. It has old leather armchairs, wicker Lloyd Looms, yellowed walls and slices of *tarte Tatin* at Fr40 which could easily serve an entire family. Warm, the apples repose stickily by a pile of *crème fraîche*.

From 11am, *Les Enfants Gâtés* has one of the best brunches in Paris — small, medium, large and — for the extravagant — extra large.

KATE MUIR

● *Ladurée*, 16 Rue Royale, 5th, 42 60 21 79. *Angelina*, 226 Rue de Rivoli, 1st, 42 60 82 00. *Les Enfants Gâtés*, 43 Rue des Frères-Bourgeois, 4th, 42 77 07 63. All open seven days a week.



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JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Toll in the new year

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY Austria joins the increasing band of European countries to levy motorway tolls. For foreign-registered cars a weekly disc (valid from midnight Thursday to midnight Sunday week) will cost about £4.20, a monthly disc about £9.10. Self-drive, rental companies in Austria will pay an annual fee. A number of motorways, toll roads and tunnels are not covered by the scheme, but a valid disc can bring a 15 per cent saving on some of them.

Switzerland has a flat-rate £21.50 toll for its motorways, valid for a year. Charges in France vary from about £27 between Paris and Chamonix to £60 between Calais and Nice. In Spain, the highest charge is about £35 between La Jonquera and Valencia. In Portugal the Lisbon-Porto costs £11. Italy charges £34 on the Brenner pass to Bari route. These charges are for standard-sized cars; larger ones, caravans and some trailers are generally charged extra.

Bon weekend

THE two-for-the-price-of-one promotion which French towns offer weekend visitors, mainly in 2 to 4-star hotels, starts again on November 1 and runs until March 21. A list of the 61 towns taking part is available free from mid-October from France Information on 0891 244123 (calls charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p at other times).

Arabian nights

DUTY-FREE shopping in an Arabian Nights airport, beaches, watersports and desert activities are offered by Cox

Tourism in Poland is booming

breaks to Abu Dhabi, leaving every Thursday until December 8. Return flights and B&B cost £675.

Pole vault

A REPORT by the World Tourism Organisation says that no country in the 1995 top-20 tourist league has progressed as much as Poland, visited by 19.2 million tourists in the year — up from 3.4 million in 1990.

Winter walking

A PROGRAMME of guided and independent autumn and winter walking holidays from Headwater Holidays (01606 48699) includes a week's ramble

Opening Africa

A NEW air charter service between the Eastern Transvaal, South Africa, and Maputo, Mozambique, enables Okavango Tours (0181-343 3283) to offer a four-day safari in the Sabi-Sandi game reserve, three days at Blue Mountain Lodge, four days on Benguela Island and three nights at the Polana Hotel in Maputo, the former Portuguese city. The price of £2,793 includes flights, transfers, full-board on safari, most meals and some watersports.

Toughening up

BASIC SURVIVAL weekends on the Brecon Beacons, Powys, learning how to live outdoors in the wilds and cope with the unexpected, are available from Acorn Activities (01432 830083) for an inclusive price of £100.

Holiday swaps

THE PLEASURES and pitfalls of home-swapping experienced by holidaymakers are described in *Home Exchange Vacationing* (Rutledge Hill Press, £9.95), available from some bookshops and free to members of Homelink International (01344 842642) subscribing to its International Directory. Plumbing, cleanliness and neighbours are the main gripes. Low costs and the idea of staying in a home rather than a hotel are the chief motivators. Homelink publishes five directories a year offering 16,000 properties in 50 countries, for an annual subscription of £65. The British directory only costs £11.

by Raymond Keene

Black is a piece up but two pawns down. In addition White threatens both Kxh3 and Rxd6+. Spassky chose this moment to resign. But what if he had played 1... Nf4 instead of giving up? If now 2 gxd4 Ne3+ 3 Kf3 Nxd1, when Black has an extra rook. The answer is that after 1... Nf4+, White simply sidesteps with 2 Kh1, when Black has no good defence to the twin threats of gxd4 and Rxd6+.

Diagram 1 shows a chessboard with the following pieces:

Rank	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8	White King							Black King
7	White Queen	Black Queen						Black Queen
6	White Rook		Black Rook					Black Rook
5		White Bishop		Black Bishop				
4			White Knight		Black Knight			
3	White Knight	Black Knight						
2	White Pawn	Black Pawn						
1	White Pawn			Black Pawn				Black Pawn

Strove (anxiously) (5)
 Disquiet (6)
 Die, fail (6)
 Opening (for fumes) (4)
 Of the stars (6)
 Whaler's weapon (7)
 Various insects: input funnel (6)
 An alarm; sounds like poison (6)
 Dried grape; a shrub (7)
 Not much (6)
 Grandiose; *l. ac.* (6)
 Abusive volcanic rock (6)
 Nottingham river (5)
 Cold and damp (4)

[illegible]

Answers on page 20

Crossroads. Murder and plenty of it is the main theme of Capcom's current PlayStation bestseller *Resident Evil*. Digitised square-shaped chunks of gore hit the floor as you head a team in pursuit of human-hating grizzlies. This is the game which surprisingly knocked Software's *Quake* from the coveted top spot in the games charts a few weeks ago. Apparently because

buried (3)
 G I A P O F E L A F E L
 N A B Q U A L I A L X E
 G U Y O T W A C H A C E
 O S S E L E T K S K I P
 I S S U E D E S A T I
 N B A L T C O U R E D
 G E L A D A S H T E D O
 B E F O G S B U I S T S
 A G E S I S U M A T R A
 P L U M O A F I F E D
 O U A G E N T E S U A O
 D E R I D E R D O L T S

by Robert Sheehan

The king of hearts held the first trick, with East playing the eighth. South led the ace of hearts. What did West do at trick two? One possibility was to lead a spade, hoping East had the king-queen. However, South could not have an opening-trick bid without at least the ace-queen.

How about trying to give East a diamond ruff? Not possible — with a single diamond. What about giving East overtricks? The first heart and played a diamond himself.

So Stansby found the best continuation, another heart. By forcing dummy to ruff he hoped to make it difficult for declarer to be able to make use of dummy's diamonds. Stansby had got the defence off on a high note. But the defenders still had to be alert. The full deal is at the top of the next column.

Quake stocks temporarily ran out, though the gameplay barely matches the quality graphics and atmospheric video sequences. This is partly because of the awkward over-the-shoulder angles of the action. Reminiscent of Infogrames' *Aloha in the Dark* series, your animated character walks in straight lines yet spins over-zealously and bumps clumsily into

Even some too good a world for those you meet in *Mind of a Killer*, from Cambrix on Windows CD-Rom. This is a dark reference title, set to a menacing score. Delving into the bleak world of serial murderers. Jack the Ripper is listed, so are Ted Bundy and Peter Sutcliffe, but not success's evil residents, Fred Rose West. The title is enlightening enough to get you thoroughly unharmed.

Finally, a reminder that *Cyberpace Twenty-Six* is our first-look competition initially offering ten readers the chance to win one of Scala's MultiMedia M1000 authoring kit — one of which will also scoop £1,000 worth of cash.

Television has brought back murder into the home — where it belongs." Alfred Hitchcock. *Idea* series interview (1965).

No 3376: Grand Slam by Phil Brindall

- (b) Follow suit? Another spade? Got no spades or diamonds? (3)
- (c) Tried to make better cut (South and East involved) (5)
- (d) Play king in competition? (Explain!) (5.2)

Trick 8 (East)
(a) Did she wise one up with a neat

(b) Extra diamonds North held a minor consideration (2-3)

(c) Did East hide his thoughts? (5)
(d) East doubled with king? That's

weird! (5)

(a) Gladden declarer, revealing extra quantity (6)

(b) Being a retiring type, conceals clubs (7)

(c) East getting tricky heart right away! It was easy! (5)

(d) Welcome clubs here (3)

(a) Extra quantity concealed? It's transparent! (4)

(b) Pass from North — East's turn —
a hearts recall (5)

(c) Heavens above! Risky about diamonds (king missing) after Mountain Road (2/2)

(d) Preliminary survey has clubs
twice taken by diff partner (5)

Trick 11 (West)

(a) Covers suits, holding queen (7)
(b) Backing of North's great — for

(c) With ace knave in hearts, one who

(d) States facts for reader! (E)

Trick 12 (Cont)

(a) Open with a knave and a king (4)
(b) Carelessly part with 10 (clubs) one

(c) Hearts followed by a club return

(7) nearly led — could be unpopular

(d) Henry follows ace with ace —
what a surprise! (3)

Trick 13 (West)

(a) Get a flier? Put up high one
(knave) (?)

(b) Marks discards — twice diamonds I throw away (5)

(c) Previously hurt East, trapped by top two diamonds (4)

NORTH

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2												2	
3												3	
4												4	
5												5	
6												6	
7												7	
8												8	
9												9	
10												10	
11												11	
12												12	
13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

EAST

SOUTH

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3376, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, October 3.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

TSB offers women guide on pensions

With life expectancy for women increasing and more marriages ending in divorce, research shows that at least half of women in the UK will suffer financial hardship in retirement. *Women & Pensions*, from the TSB, offers guidance on what women can do to build up their own pensions. For a copy, telephone 0800 330303.

The Scottish Whisky Association is warning investors not to rush into putting money into casks of maturing Scotch whisky. Unwary investors have found that the purchase price is considerably higher than the value placed on the whisky for insurance purposes or that the appreciation in the value of the investment has been exaggerated by promoters. A leader from the association, *Personal Investment in Scotch Whisky*, sets out points which investors should consider before buying casks. Telephone 0131 229 4383 or 0171 629 4384.

Worldwide travel insurance has been launched by Wintersportsplan for skiers or snowboarders. The cost for an adult for ten days in Europe is £24 Standard Ski or £29.50 Super Ski; worldwide cover is £37.50 or £46.50 respectively. Super Ski comes with the benefit of continued physiotherapy in the UK. Premiums can be reduced by 15 per cent by removing baggage or money cover. For details telephone 01732 773366.

Two new fixed rate bonds have been launched by the Millennium Bond from Bradford & Bingley pays 7.25 per cent gross fixed for three years, or 7 per cent for monthly interest. Minimum balance is £1,000. Leeds & Holbeck's Fixed Rate Bond has a two or three-year term. For balances from £1,000 to £10,000 it pays 6.5 per cent for two years and 6.75 per cent for three. Over £10,000, the rates are 6.65 and 7.05 per cent, and there is a monthly option. Withdrawals can be paid with both bonds, but with a penalty. For savers wanting to fix for longer, the Cheshire has a five-year escalator bond, paying, on average, 7.7 per cent gross a year.

SARAH JONES

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20,000	AIG Life	5.60
50,000	AIG Life	5.70
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.00
10,000	AIG Life	5.33
20,000	AIG Life	5.33
50,000	AIG Life	6.03
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.35
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Northern Rock 0500 505000	31.12.98	£2,500	6.75	F/V/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/V/y
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/V/y
Birmingham Mid 0505 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.00	V/y
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	6.80	V/y

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Credit cards	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%MC	7.90%N	N/A
Robert Fleming/S&P 0200 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.89%MC	11.20%N	N/A
Midland Bank 01702 353344	MasterCard/Visa	0.94%MC	11.90%N	N/A

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Personal loans	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs no insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9986	13.90%	£112.86	£101.23
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	14.90%	£115.47	£102.56

Nb. C = no interest free period, F = available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 25 years. N = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). * Rates shown are gross and subject to change without notice. Please check rates before investing.

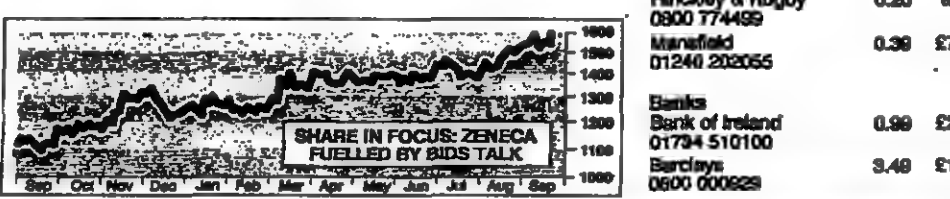
Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01992 500 627)

PIBS

Fixed rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	100.42	9.329	100.17	1,000	
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	120.77	9.826	100.13	10,000	
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	135.66	9.583	100.20	10,000	
Bristol & West 13.375%	140.03	9.551	100.24	1,000	
British 13.000%	135.10	9.623	100.42	1,000	
Coverity 12.125%	127.55	9.485	100.75	1,000	
First National 11.750%	118.25	9.553	100.25	10,000	
Halifax 8.750%	94.14	9.294	100.62	50,000	
Halifax 12.000%	128.34	9.229	100.28	50,000	
Halifax 15.500%	145.08	9.303	100.10	50,000	
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	141.12	9.476	100.23	1,000	
Newcastle 10.750%	117.01	9.172	100.32	1,000	
Newcastle 12.625%	136.35	9.259	100.45	1,000	
Northern Rock 12.850%	138.73	9.231	100.14	1,000	
Skipton 12.675%	135.61	9.494	100.48	1,000	

Floating rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Chester (28/09-21/03) 5.875%	107.83	100.00	1,000		
First National 5.70825%	101.68	100.00	1,000		

PIBS = Permanent Interest Bearing Securities. Source: ABN AMRO House (02045 0171 601 010)



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	0.05	to £150k	70	Rise fixed for 12 months.
Bank of Ireland	0.20	to £150k	70	Fixed for 1 yr.
Bank of Ireland	0.36	£75-125k	90	6.35% disc 6mth, 2% disc 12mth
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6mth, 3% disc 12mth
Barclays	3.48	£15-500k	95	3.50% discount for 12 mths.

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers rates supplied by Bay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bay's Guides, 01789 804482.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20% 40%	Min/maximum investment	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20 0.80	10-10,000**		0845 645000
Investment A/c	4.75	3.00 2.25	20-500**		0845 645000
Income Bond	6.00	4.80 3,602,000-25,000**		1mth	0845 645000
First Opt Bond	6.00	4.80 3,601,000-20,000**		1mth	0845 645000
Child's A/c	5.35	100-10,000		1mth	0845 645000
Children's Bond	6.75	25-1,000		1mth	0845 645000
Child's A/c	5.35	100-10,000		1mth	0845 645000
Capital Bonds	6.85	5.32 3.99	100-50,000	8day	0845 645000
5th Index Linked	2.50	100-10,000		8day	0845 645000
Parents Bond	5.70	5.60 4.20	500-50,000	1mth	0845 645000

Use 100 (104) p.p. or see the net rates for up to £100. Additional charge up to £20.00 for transfer of funds. * Tax free. ** Gross rates. Guaranteed when held for 5 years. 0.2% net bonus for £20,000 - £100,000 in addition to 5% and 3% holdings. * Taxable but used in 1995-1996 even higher rates. ** Fixed rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 80	Age 85	Age 70
Stewart	Level	£10,359	£11,399	£12,488
General	Level	£10,359	£11,399	£12,488
Canada Life	Level	£10,158	£11,252	£12,312
Sun Life	Level	£10,255	£11,285	£12,365
Prudential	Level	£10,218	£11,225	£12,290

SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 80	Age 85	Age 70
Prudential	Level	£9,578	£10,310	£11,387
General	Level	£9,469	£10,308	£11,474
Sun Life	Level	£9,528	£10,308	£11,502
Stewart	Level	£9,457	£10,244	£11,404
Canada Life	Level	£9,340	£10,176	£11,403

JOINT LIFE 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male:	Age 80	Age 85	Age 70
Stewart	Level	£9,271	£9,943	£10,895
General	Level	£9,234	£9,944	£10,895
Sun Life	Level	£9,159	£9,720	£10,895
Prudential	Level	£9,101	£9,659	£10,895
Canada	Level	£8,927	£9,583	£10,514

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Annuity Direct (0171 583 8383)

Compiled by: Lucy Dupuis

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	0.85	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mth then 1% disc 8mth
Bristol & West 0800 608088	3.74	£15k+	95	3.25% disc for 12 months.
0171 928 1331	4.24	£15-150k	95	2.5% disc for 12 months.
Newbury 01635 43876				
Banks				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mth, 3% disc 12mth
01734 510100	3.25	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months.
TSB 0500 753000				

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers rates supplied by Bay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bay's Guides, 01789 804482.

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PERFORMANCE VOUCHER OFFER

CHASE DE VERE INVESTMENTS PLC

UNIT-LINKED INVESTMENT

Source: Chambers & Birk 0171-454 4882. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

مَكْرًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

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UK HARVESTERS ASSOCIATION

OIL & GAS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

RETAILERS FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5
10.00	9.80	Alfred Dunhill	10.00	4.5	18.5

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THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

No wonder Arsenal are tempted to bring back Tony Adams against Middlesbrough's multi-talented attack. Wretchedly inept against Borussia Mönchengladbach, Arsenal's defence creaked horribly in the early stages of the 4-1 win against Sheffield Wednesday. But Patrick Vieira, the French midfield player, made a promising debut and is eligible to play against the Germans on Wednesday in Cologne. There is little wrong with Arsenal's attack, even without Bergkamp. BG

DERBY COUNTY

Derby may have to break up the back three that has helped them to take seven points from three games and given Jim Smith, the manager, what he considers a perfectly balanced defence. His choice of Matt Carbone, 21, against Manchester United caused a huge surprise but the youngster's ability to hit long passes on the left complements Stimac and Rowett. However, he suffered delayed concussion a week ago, broke down in training on Thursday and is doubtful. RH

ASTON VILLA

Aston Villa gave Manchester United a nasty surprise at the start of last season, when they won 3-1, prompting Alan Hansen to utter those memorable lines on *Match of the Day* that "you never win anything with kids". This time, the season is well under way, with United in contention at the top of the table, and Villa also challenging. Brian Little, the Villa manager, will be expecting Dwight Yorke, last year's leading scorer, to begin firing. Thus far, he has been drawing blanks. PB

EVERTON

Among Everton's unexpected problems this season has been the poor form of Andrei Kanchelskis. "I don't know whether it's a hangover from Euro 96 or whether he's just struggling to live up to the standards he set last season," Joe Royle said, ten days ago. Since then Royle has spotted signs that the hangover might be passing. The search for a striker to partner Duncan Ferguson continues, but if the supply line from Kanchelskis returns, it will make Ferguson's life easier. PB

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Ray Harford is getting a little agitated at speculation about his next purchase. He assured the media yesterday that no new arrival is imminent, but there may be a fresh face in the Blackburn side today. Jason Wilcox is likely to return for his first game of the season after injuring a knee in the summer. "It has been a frustrating time because I finally got fit after a cruciate ligament injury that kept me out for a year, and then I got another problem. But I feel ready," he said. DM

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham's relaxed, open approach to the press since he returned to the game has been striking. Very different to the tight, unyielding manager of Arsenal days. Perhaps his year in the press box played its part — but one or two suspect that behind the relaxed manner, he is still as cautious as ever. He is holding his weekly press conferences on Thursday rather than the traditional Friday — "In case I've got something up my sleeve which I don't want you to see." PB

CHELSEA

A hard test for unbeaten Chelsea at Liverpool. Frank Leboeuf returns, having missed the win at Blackpool in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday. Vialli is back too, but in what kind of form? He had a strangely passive game last Sunday against Aston Villa. But Jody Morris goes from strength to strength in midfield. Ruud Gullit seems likely to persist with a flat back four, but he must be worried that Chelsea's most dangerous players last Sunday were both defenders: Leboeuf and Petrescu. BG

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester's side is likely to have a more cosmopolitan look in the coming weeks. After two trial games in the reserves, Sacha Lenhart, 22, the German winger, has signed a one-month contract as the club's first capture under the Bosman ruling. He was a free agent who played in Belgium for Royal Antwerp last season. Meanwhile, Pontus Knaamark, the Sweden defender, is continuing his rehabilitation after cruciate ligament surgery in January and should be in first-team contention next month. RH

COVENTRY CITY

Ron Atkinson failed in his recent attempt to enlist Paul McGrath, the Aston Villa defender, but the word is that he is still keen to add to his modest £17.5 million outlay in 19 months at the Highfield Road helm. However, the undeserved Coca-Cola Cup draw with Birmingham City — Coventry should have won that match comfortably — could convince him that good times are just around the corner. Big Ron in closed chequebook shock? RK

LIVERPOOL

The suggestion on Merseyside is that Patrik Berger, the Czech Republic international, will make his first start for the club. But do not be too sure. Roy Evans, the manager, was keeping his cards close to his chest yesterday and even though he is expected to drop Collymore, his £8 million forward, he is perverse enough to give him one last opportunity. Otherwise Liverpool will be unchanged from the side that took them to the top of the Premiership against Leicester last Sunday. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

With Keane and Cole coming back to full fitness, Alex Ferguson's biggest problem may be to keep his squad happy. "If players aren't playing they don't enjoy it, and that's a problem for one or two players at the moment. But I've got to spread the load this season. The difficult thing will come when I have to pick teams for the big matches. But if United are successful, then I'm doing the right thing." Today's solution may be for Cole and Solskjaer to play 45 minutes each. PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

Claudio Brancaccio is expected to revert to the substitutes' bench for the match with Arsenal today at the Riverside Stadium, in favour of the returning Neil Cox, after the 7-0 Coca-Cola Cup demolition of Hereford on Wednesday. Despite scoring three times in two reserve fixtures, Mikkel Beck, the Denmark international forward, is not yet deemed fully match-fit. Meanwhile, Robson has quelled talk of a dispute with his reserve goalkeeper, Gary Walsh, insisting he is staying put. LT

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Faustino Asprilla must sit on the substitutes' bench once again for the game at Leeds. Contrary to popular rumour he is not on the verge of submitting a transfer request, and even if he were to complain, nobody would understand because his interpreter has gone off to college. Newcastle are aiming for their fourth consecutive victory today, but Kevin Keegan must keep winning if he is to pacify some of the big names, like Albert, who are being left out of the side. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Bryan Roy's return to fitness has occurred not a moment too soon for a beleaguered Forest. They have conceded 11 league goals already. Steve Stone is out for a year. Frank Clark has no money to spend and a crowd of 6,482 for the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Wycombe on Wednesday was the lowest at the City Ground for 36 years, despite halved admission prices. Roy frustrated the supporters last season, but his winning goal against Wycombe oozed class. RH

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Two weeks ago they were top of the pile. Now David Pleat, the manager, will find out whether his players really have the character to belie the summer suggestion that Wednesday are natural relegation candidates. Two defeats present an immediate test of resolve. Pleat, at least, has the returning Pembroke to strengthen his midfield: Hyde will replace the injured Collins — leaving no room for Sheridan, which may spark transfer interest from Coventry and Manchester City. DM

SUNDERLAND

Alex Rae, a Coca-Cola Cup scorer in the midweek win at Watford, will be challenging Kevin Ball for a midfield place. After joining Sunderland from Millwall for £1 million in the summer, Rae was initially suspended, but he now has a strong chance of translating his impressive practice-ground form into Premiership surroundings. Peter Reid, the manager, continues his attempt to create another Ajax on Wearside by pinching Jimmy Hagan from Manchester United as youth supremo. LT

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five
1 Liverpool	8	14	+7	WDWWW
2 Manchester Utd	6	12	+10	DDWWW
3 Chelsea	6	12	+5	WDWDW
4 Newcastle	6	12	+2	WLWWW
5 Sheffield Wed	6	12	0	WWLW
6 Middlesbrough	6	11	+7	LDWWW
7 Arsenal	6	11	+5	LWDDW
8 Aston Villa	6	11	+3	WWWDW
9 Wimbledon	6	9	+1	LDWWW
10 Derby	6	9	0	DLDDW
11 Tottenham	6	8	+1	DDLLW
12 Leeds	6	7	-5	LDLWL
13 Sunderland	6	6	+1	WDLLD
14 Nottingham Forest	6	6	-3	LDLDD
15 Everton	6	5	-4	DDLLL
16 Leicester	6	5	-5	WLDDL
17 West Ham	6	5	-6	DWLDD
18 Coventry	6	2	-9	DLDDL
19 Southampton	6	2	-4	LDLDD
20 Blackburn	6	1	-8	LDLLL

WEST HAM UNITED

Foreigners come and league points go, but some things never change at Upton Park. Having gone 26 matches without a booking, Julian Dicks has been cautioned in successive matches. "I was so annoyed at some of the decisions. I think referees think they are better than they are," the shaven-headed one complained after falling from grace at Middlesbrough. "Some of them don't even want to speak to you." And what had Dicks said? "It's not something you'll be able to print." KP

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kornepson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanski, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Dasthorpe

WIMBLEDON

Whether it was the Wimbledon players' closed-ranks reaction to Gary Lineker's jibe at Vinnie Jones, or the realisation that nobody is indispensable (after his teammates' third successive victory without him), Dean Holdsworth is back in the fold. He scored the only goal against Portsmouth on Wednesday, when Joe Kinnear fielded largely a reserve side, plus Jones, who misses the Southampton game through suspension. "I could have ended up with egg on my face," Kinnear said. NS

ASTON VILLA v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, -0-0, 3-0, 1-1, 0-1, 1-0, 1-2, 3-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, S. Staunton, G. Southgate, A. Townsend, I. Taylor, M. Draper, S. Milosevic, D. Yorke, T. Johnson, A. Wright, F. Nelson, U. Ehiogu, S. Curcio, A. Rachet.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, G. Pallister, R. Johnson, D. Irwin, K. Poborsky, D. Beckham, R. Keane, R. Giggs, E. Cantona, O. Solskjaer, D. May, B. McClair, A. Cole, J. Cruyff, R. van der Gouw.

BLACKBURN v EVERTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -0-0, 3-0, 2-3, 0-0, 3-0, 0-3

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): J. Flowers, H. Berg, J. Kenia, C. Hendry, C. Coleman, T. Sherwood, L. Robinson, G. Filcott, G. Dooks, C. Sutton, K. Gallacher, G. Fenton, G. Croft, N. Barker, S. Given, W. McKinstry, S. Ripley, J. Wilcox, N. Gudmundsson.

EVERTON (from): M. Southall, P. Gerrard, E. Barnett, M. Hoteller, A. Hutchinson, C. Short, D. Unsworth, J. Ebdon, J. Parkinson, A. Grant, A. Kanchelskis, D. Ferguson, P. Rideout, M. Branch, V. Samways, A. Linpar.

LEEDS v NEWCASTLE

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -0-0, 1-0, -1-0, 1-1, 0-0, 0-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (probable): M. Marryn, G. Kelly, R. Johnson, D. Wetherall, I. Harte, R. Wallace, M. Ford, C. Palmer, L. Sharpe, I. Rush, M. Halsey.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable): P. Smiech, S. Watson, S. Howey, D. Peacock, J. Beresford, D. Batty, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, D. Ginola, A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand.

LIVERPOOL v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 2-1, -1-1, 2-0, 1-2, 3-1, 2-1, 3-1, 2-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, J. McIvor, S. B. Bjornbye, M. Wright, D. Matteo, P. Babb, J. Scales, N. Ruddock, J. Barnes, S. McManaman, R. Fowler, S. Collymore, P. Berger, J. Redknapp, M. Kennedy, A. Warner, L. Jones.

CHELSEA (from): K. Hitchcock, C. Burley, S. Clarke, D. Wise, R. Di Matteo, F. Leboeuf, M. Duberry, A. Myers, M. Hughes, D. Lee, J. Morris, G. Vialli, M. Nicholls, F. Grodes, D. Petrescu, J. Spencer, E. Johnsen, S. Minto.

MIDDLESBROUGH v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: -0-1, -1-1, -1-0, -1-0, -2-3

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): A. Cantona, C. Fleming, Brancaccio, S. Vickers, D. Whyte, Emerson, P. Whelan, R. Mustoe, N. Barnaby, P. Stamp, Juninho, F. Ravanelli, A. Moore, C. Hendrie, C. Hignett, B. Roberts.

ARSENAL (from): D. Seaman, L. Dixon, N. Winterburn, A. Linighan, S. Boulton, M. Keown, D. Platt, I. Wright, J. Harrison, P. Merson, P. Vieira, M. Rose, J. Lukic, P. Shaw, S. Marshall, A. Adams, R. ParLOUR, S. Morrow.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v WEST HAM

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 0-0, 1-2, -2-2, -1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A. Fettes, D. Lytle, A. Hagan, C. Cooper, N. Jerkin, S. Chettle, S. Pearce, D. Phillips, C. Lee, W. Williams, S. Gemmell, C. Allen, J. Woan, D. Saunders, R. McGregor, J. East, A. Silenzi, B. Roy, V. Warner, R. Howe.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): S. Maletina, P. Shilton, T. Breacker, J. Dicks, S. Potts, S. Bille, I. Downie, M. Raper, J. Moncur, S. Lazarek, I. Bishop, M. Hughes, S. Bowen, S. Jones, K. Rowland, F. Lampard, A. Whitbread, A. Coffey, R. Ferdinand, I. Dumitrescu.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v DERBY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -2-1, 1-1, 1-0, -1-1, -1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K. Pressman, P. Atherton, D. Stefanovic, J. Newsome, S. Oakes, D. Walker, I. Nolan, S. Nicol, G. Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pembroke, R. Binkley, R. Humphreys, A. Booth, M. Bright, D. Hirst, L. Briscoe.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Hour, A. Cuy, G. Rowett, I. Stimac, P. Parker, J. Laurens, L. Cansley, C. Powell, D. Powell, R. van der Laan, C. Dailly, P. Simpson, M. Gabbiadini, D. Sturridge, A. Ward, K. Cooper.

SUNDERLAND v COVENTRY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -0-0, -1-1, -1-1, -1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): A. Cotton, D. Preece, G. Hatt, P. Bracewell, K. Ball, A. Melville, G. Ord, S. Agnew, P. Stewart, N. Quinn, C. Russell, M. Gray, L. Howey, M. Bridges, A. Rae, D. Kelly, B. Angel.

COVENTRY CITY (from): S. Ogrzovic, B. Borrows, L. Daish, R. Shaw, D. Burrows, P. Teller, K. Richardson, G. McAllister, J. Salako, D. Dublin, N. Whelan, A. Ducroce, P. Williams, E. Jess, M. Hall, J. Plan, M. O'Neill, M. Isaacs.

LEADING SCORERS

6: F. Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)
5: I. Wright (Arsenal)
4: E. Cantona (Manchester United), Juninho (Middlesbrough), L. Ferdinand (Newcastle United), K. Campbell (Nottingham Forest)
3: F. Leboeuf (Chelsea), S. McManaman (Liverpool), A. Shearer (Newcastle United), A. Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), R. Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), C. Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur)

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at <http://www.fa-carling.com/>

TOTTENHAM v LEICESTER

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 5-0, -1-1, -1-1, -1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I. Walker, E. Beardsen, J. Edinburg, S. Nethercott, S. Campbell, S. Carr, D. Howells, R. Rosenfield, C. Armstrong, R. Allen, D. Anderton, A. Sinton, A. Nielsen, C. Calderwood, C. Wilson, R. Fox.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K. Keller, S. Grayson, N. Lennon, S. Walsh, M. Whelan, J. Watts, S. Pitar, P. Roling, M. Uzzell, M. Robins, E. Hesley, S. Clackie, J. Marshall, J. Lawrence, N. Lewis, G. Parker, S. Campbell, K. Poole.

WIMBLEDON v SOUTHAMPTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-0, 2-1, 3-3, 1-1, 0-1, 1-2, 1-0, 0-2, 1-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, V. Jones, D. Blackwell, B. Thatcher, O. Lachardier, R. Earle, E. Boku, D. Holdsworth, M. Gayle, C. Perry, J. Goodman, B. McAllister, N. Ardley, S. Castle, A. Clarke, J. Euell, P. Fear, P. Heald.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D. Baasant, J. Dodd, A. Neilson, F. Benal, S. Charlton, R. Dryden, K. Morikazu, J. Magilton, N. Maddison, M. Le Tissier, N. Shipperley, G. Watson, N. Honey, P. Tisdale, N. Moss, R. Slater, C. Lundekvam.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today
10.45pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights)
Tomorrow
10am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday
4pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City (live)
Monday
8pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football
Wimbledon v Southampton (live)

RUGBY UNION

Gloucester must be wary of Bath backlash

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN was the last time that Bath covered in the lower half of the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, starting up at seven teams? It is not a situation to which the perennial league winners are accustomed, nor one that they enjoy.

In normal circumstances, they would not look at Kingsholm, where they play Gloucester today, as a place to go for sustenance, yet the professional game has left Gloucester struggling for a foothold among the elite. They have young, ambitious players on their books, but those concerned need time in which to mature, and they will not get it from the big spenders.

In 1987, the inaugural year of league rugby, Bath were beaten in two of their first three games. Now, having lost in successive weeks to Leicester and Wasp, Gloucester may prove the whipping boys.

"We made 17 handling errors against Wasp and lost the ball in the tackle 12 times," Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, said. "In addition, we gave away ten penalties and, when you add that all together, it's an enormous amount of ball to give the opposition."

"Wasp scored three tries from two turnovers and a dropped pass by Mike Catt which, on the day, was par for the course, because a lot of the errors were made by those you might call the top-ranked players. In the first half, we didn't play the game we had talked about in training; we didn't even attempt the game that brought us 87 points against Swansea."

So back against Gloucester come the cool, knowledgeable heads of Phil de Glanville and Andy Robinson, the man whom the Kingsholm Shed loves to hate. Against them, Gloucester will pit Peter Glanville and Mark Maplet, the stand-off half whose name will have come up in discussion on Thursday among the England management, as much for his kicking ability as his running talents.

Goalkeeping is a source of serious concern for England, who hope to name a training squad on Monday. So many clubs employ "foreigners" in

that capacity, that any first-division Englishman who is finding the mark consistently is worthy of consideration. Look, for example, at Wasp and Gareth Rees, Bristol and Paul Burke, Harlequins and Michael Corcoran, Orrell and Frano Botica (until today), Richmond and Simon Mason — all of them qualified for other countries.

It is no surprise to see John Lily, of Leicester, heading the kicking chart in the first division with Jon Callard, of Bath, in close attendance, but next in line comes Will Carling, born-again kicker and would-be stand-off half but playing at centre in an unchanged Harlequins team at Bristol. "We are now moving into the serious phase of our season," Dick Best, their director of rugby, said.

Mind you, he thought that last week before his players scored 86 points against London Irish, who give league debuts today to Phil Drury and Ivan Mackenzie against a Sale side missing the injured Dewi Morris.

Were Harlequins to sustain their unbeaten run against Bristol it would be no great surprise. However, Wasp, the first division's other unbeaten side, are in the uncustomed position of favourites to beat Leicester at Lofus Road tomorrow, when Andy Gomarsall and Austin Healey, two of the sparkiest scrum halves in the country, clash.

The top of the second division will take shape after Newcastle — who have now agreed terms with Halifax Blue Sox for John Bentley, the former England wing — have played Blackheath, and Richmond's visit to Bedford, for whom Martin Offiah's league debut is, once more, delayed. However, Bedford will field their latest signings, Scott Murray, the lock from Edinburgh Academicals and Junior Paramore, the former Western Samoa flanker.

Llanelli will not confirm their XV to play Swansea, the Welsh League leaders, until this morning in the hope that Botica's move from Orrell can be confirmed. Last night the delicate question of compensation was being discussed.

Sheasby has right hair style

David Hands meets a player with strong claims to succeed Dean Richards as the England No 8

Dean Richards knows all about the troughs in representative sport as well as the peaks — he has, after all, been overlooked by England four times en route to becoming his country's most-capped No 8. Chris Sheasby, for his part, would love just one of the opportunities Richards has had and the meeting of the two players at Lofus Road tomorrow resounds with possibilities.

It is easy to attach a label to both men: Leicester's Richards, the product of another era, symbol of a slower, more formal international time, against the buzzing Wasp, Sheasby, boulevardier of university and London rugby. Yet there is less than four years between them and Sheasby has done his share of the back-row spade-work while Richards has played his part in games of verve, pace and style.

Some may argue that Sheasby, at 29, has left it late to press his claim to an international cap. Always there have been others ahead of him in the queue — Rodder, Ryan, Clarke, Ojomoh, Diprose — yet Sheasby would argue that the game is now catching up with him.

"I perceived myself, when I started, as much more of a southern hemisphere style of player and it upsets me to hear people saying we should strive to play as they do when I believe that I have always done so, yet have been criticised for it," he said.

For a decade Sheasby was a faithful Harlequin, yet during the summer he joined Wasp just when it seemed that Harlequins were poised to break the Bath-Leicester stranglehold. His most obvious motive was the chance to play alongside Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasp captain, who has made England's No 7 shirt his own.

The second was the future last March when he preferred to play seven for an England team in Hong Kong and crossed swords with Dick Best, director of rugby for Harlequins, who had league commitments on the same weekend. The abbreviated game is important to Sheasby, a member of the 1993 England squad that won the inaugural World Cup tournament.



Sheasby is hoping his move to Wasp will further his international ambitions

"I wasn't happy with what happened last March but not was I at the way Harlequins were going into the professional era," he said. "Keith Richardson, the coach and a former player in the club's success last season, left but I also felt the group feeling we developed was drifting away. There had to be a balance between the old loyalties and the new transfer market."

"It wouldn't have taken much doing, just a few subtle brush strokes, but instead everyone was categorised when it came to contracts. There was no discussion, no negotiation over areas which might have been improved, the degree of individual freedom allowed — I felt the club was going back to the cosmo-

politan days of five or six years ago, when internationalists from all over the world would float in."

Wasp offered the flexibility Sheasby sought: a reasonable financial package to go with a two-year contract, plus an opportunity for the player to develop a career. Sheasby is maintaining his teaching links with Pangbourne, but he is looking towards the media and it is no coincidence that Chris Wright, chairman of Lofus Road plc, which runs both Wasp and Queens Park Rangers, is also the owner of the Chrysalis communications group.

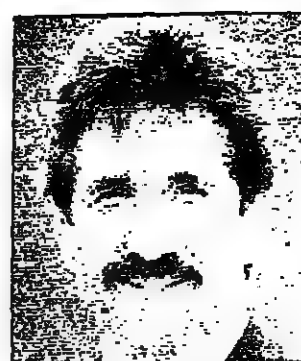
The law changes relating to the scrum this season have helped him promote his international claims: he is blessed

with power, pace off the mark and good hands, which he demonstrated with great clarity against Tony Diprose and Saracens a fortnight ago. But he must also convince the sceptics, those who remember his swashbuckling student days and have not recognised the change to serious career rugby player.

"I feel the ability I have could have been recognised earlier," Sheasby, who has played twice for England A, said. "If I only had a year left I might be bitter about it but I have three years and I hope the quality of skills and the style of play will benefit me. At Wasp I feel part of a team that is going places, that has the chance to win everything."

Public apathy undermines value of series

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

In 1986 I had the great good fortune to spend a full week in France. It was the early winter and not the middle part of the year when it is fashionable for retired company directors to go there to write a blockbuster.

To be in France at any time is as fine a prospect as a man can wish, but this was no idle dawdle to admire the architecture and the churches. There was a game afoot — France were due to play New Zealand. There was much restless anticipation and animated chatter in the cafes and restaurants.

The drama was in two parts: the first international in Toulouse, the second in the newly-opened Beaujeu Stadium, in Nantes, the next Saturday. New Zealand, captained by Jock Hobbs, won the first ferocious encounter 19-7. In the return match, France, inspired by the uncompromising Jacques Fouroux, overcame the deficit to win an even more brutal contest 16-3. But for the violence on the pitch, it was a great rugby week: such exhilaration.

Let us move on a decade. The All Blacks were in France last year. Again it was a two-match duel. This time, in Toulouse, France won 22-15 so that the road leading to the second match in Paris was red-hot, a pitch of excitement. This time, in a magnificent display of attacking rugby, New Zealand won 37-12. In both cases there should have been a decider. Even so, the mini-series aroused curiosity and demanded attention. Both occasions provided rich rugby experiences.

So, where is all this leading? It is to consider the value and structure of international rugby. At present, there is a ferment of activity to arrange fixtures, to raise revenue to fund the game. In so doing, the game itself may be devalued.

For instance, Wales will play three international fixtures at Cardiff before Christmas. The first is against France on Wednesday evening. The tickets are easy to come by and the French have given their comment by not awarding caps for what they regard as a "friendly" match.

The public are a discerning bunch. They understand that, since there are plenty of matches, they can exercise their discretion. The ones they miss, they can watch on television. Furthermore, with matches against Australia and South Africa in the three spendthrift weeks before Christmas, their wallets will be stretched.

The crowd is also discrimi-

nating enough to know that nothing hangs on the outcome on Wednesday. If they want to see France play, Paris on February 15 is the place to be. There are the abundant delights of Paris, of course, but, more importantly, this will be a five nations' championship match. The fixture has a meaning, a mood and a context.

International matches should not be served up willy-nilly. Isolated fixtures are no proper substitute for a fully-structured list of inter-dependent games.

Lessons from the past might be useful. Curtailing the four home countries' fixtures to two, so that incoming touring parties played only Wales and Ireland or Scotland and England, but not all four, was a retrograde step. There remains the dissatisfaction of not knowing what the two excluded countries might have done. An integrated series inspires an accumulating interest, as the recent contests between the Springboks and the All Blacks demonstrated.

That Australia, in their negotiations with England, should be attempting to revive a grand-slam series of matches is to be welcomed. Were it to come about, it would be a pre-Christmas appetiser well worth savouring. Indeed, the old system of a touring team before Christmas, with some modifications in the number of three international fixtures, and a European championship afterwards might better suit the professional needs of the game.

Rugby, like cricket, values the tradition of the series. It ought to be maintained, not simply for sentimental reasons, but for very good sporting, promotional and financial reasons. Rugby needs not saturation but thrilling, vivid occasions.

COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Cup First Round

Accrington v Manchester Utd	11.00
Blackburn v Everton	12.00
Leeds v Newcastle	12.00
Liverpool v Chelsea	12.00
Manchester City v Arsenal	12.00
Nottingham Forest v West Ham	12.00
Sheff Wed v Derby	12.00
Sunderland v Coventry	12.00

Nationwide League

Bradford v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

DR MATTHEW LEAGUE: Premier division

Accrington v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Third Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Fourth Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Ball's Scottish League

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

FA HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

UNSPORT UNITED COUNTRIES LEAGUE

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

ENGLAND EASTERN COUNTRIES LEAGUE

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

CRICKET

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

England v Australia

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

First Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

Second Division

Blackburn v Bolton	12.00
Cardiff v Newport	12.00
Doncaster v Barnsley	12.00
Grimsby v Scunthorpe	12.00
Sheff Wed v Rotherham	12.00

كندا من الأصل

GOLF

Critics pin failure on new target

By MEL WEBB

SOME people are never happy unless they are miserable. Players in the Loch Lomond World Invitational this week have been unable to complain about the tees, fairways, bunkers or greens — all are as near perfect as makes no difference. Yesterday, however, their relentless search for something to gripe about found a target. The pin placements, apparently, left something to be desired — and then some.

Players formed an orderly queue to weigh in with their fourpennyworth: the air was thick with hyperbole. "Disgusting," said some; "disgraceful," wailed others; "appalling," cried more. Never has so much hot air been spilt by so many over so little.

The main source of their complaints was that the powers-that-be on the PGA European Tour had laid some tough pin placements on this most spectacular of golf courses. That, given a robust breeze that swept round the tree-lined layout, plus the fact that the greens were, it was claimed, too hard to fly the ball at the flag, left the players frustrated and angry.

Peter O'Malley, of Australia, is a tough individual who is not normally prone to gratuitous grouching, so it was out of character when he launched into a critique of the

flags. He implied that whoever had decided where to position them should be shot, or at the very least fired.

Others, such as Frank Nobilo, the personable New Zealander who has a winning way with words and the golf game to go with it, and Gordon Sherry, the lofty young Scot, had their say, too.

"I've played in 16 events in Europe this year, and something like this has happened in six or seven of them," Nobilo said, "but nothing ever seems to get done."

Sherry, the touring professional at Loch Lomond, said that he was "disappointed" with the pins, and not even Thomas Bjorn, whose 69 left him with a one-shot lead on 139, three under par, was entirely happy.

"The pins are really difficult, especially with the wind," he said. "If you start missing them on the wrong side, you're going to have some tough putts. I would like the greens to be a little softer."

It was easy to understand the players' unhappiness, but less easy to sympathise with them. They had a more than justified point when they sounded off about the putting surfaces in the British Masters at Collingtree Park three weeks ago. They were dreadful, with knobs on. This week, though, the greens are in AI



Sherry, who knows the Loch Lomond course, was "disappointed" with the pins

condition. The phrase that comes irresistibly to mind is "put up or shut up".

Meanwhile, Robert Allenby, who had four birdies and as many bogeys in his 71 to share second place with Jean Van de Velde, one ahead of Nick Faldo, Jamie Spence and Darren Clark, proved himself

a contender whether the conditions are as awful as they were when he won the British Masters or as good as they are at Loch Lomond.

He did not much like the pins either. "Eight of them were just ridiculous," he said. Van de Velde loved them — he had a course-record 65, includ-

ing only 11 putts on the back nine. "The greens were pure," he said, thus proving the perversity of professional golfers. It is amazing — give a man a decent score, and all is right with the world. Give him a 79, and the selfsame world is about to collapse around his ears.

Diego gives hotel the hands-on treatment

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

YOU read it here first — well, don't you always? Diego is going to come and play in the Premiership. In fact, Chelsea are on the very brink of signing him on a match-to-match basis. That, at any rate, is the talk in Buenos Aires, after Diego's recent dinner in London with his old pal, Gianluca Vialli, a Serie A player who has turned to English footy and Chelsea. In fact, the Argentinians are not too happy about it.

They are already furious with "English pirates", this being in any case a bit of national stereotyping. Diego is quoted as saying: "I'd like to play in the English championship, because it has now become as important as the Italian." Further credence is given to the story because Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, is "a friend of Argentina".

The story remains ongoing despite Diego's visit to Chelsea last Sunday, in which he was turned away by a bouncer/jobsworth because his clothes did not meet the high standards they expect at Chelsea. Life, however, is a troublesome business, and that counts double for Diego. He is having psychotherapy in Spain under the Argentinian psychiatrist, Jacobo Zubcoff. "Drug-dependent people can be treated, but only on condition that the patient really wants to be cured," Zubcoff said. "Diego needs appropriate, personalised treatment."

Diego, in a rage after getting stuck in a lift, improvised on his personalised treatment by smashing up a hotel in Alicante this week. He broke the lift doors and then had a go at the furniture; the hotel agreed not to prosecute after Diego promised to cough up. Meanwhile, Diego's manager, Guillermo Coppola, said that Diego's playing future was unclear: "He has a contract with Boca Juniors, but he has also received offers from Japan and England."

Growing pains

Rugby union's deathbed conversion to modernism is all very well, but I wish they would remember the immutable law of Stephen Potter: "Gambits are for use, and not for overuse." The latest

did not believe that the world was against them?

Base rate

Half a million bucks for a baseball? Not even a new one, but one that has been well-clobbered. This is the highest price paid for a chunk of sporting memorabilia, the previous record being \$451,000 (£290,000), paid by the ice hockey player, Wayne Gretzky, for a baseball card depicting Honus Wagner. But now Michael Lasky has paid \$500,000 for the ball that Eddie Murray struck to register his 500th home run. Danny Jones, sitting in the cheap seats when he caught it, has made a decent profit on his entrance money. In memorabilia circles, the consensus is that Lasky is barking. Donald Flanagan, of Christies, said that the ball was worth between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Bog days

"Dear Mr Barnes: Having recently competed in the world bog-snorkelling championships in Wales, I was disappointed that there was no mention of this worthy event in *The Times*... As an alternative to the pages of coverage that other minority sports such as football and cricket receive, it may be a consideration for next year. Yours sincerely, Jonathan Maiden." Some may imagine that Mr Maiden is attempting a hoax, but bog-snorkelling does exist as a sport. However, I missed the event this year and have no details other than Mr Maiden's participation to pass on.

Breath stroke

Power booster: Jennie Marx writes to give me her recipe for garlic mayonnaise "certain to cause the opposition to collapse the scrum and avoid high tackles... for a single serving, two tablespoons of natural yogurt, two tablespoons of mayonnaise, two large cloves of garlic crushed, salt and pepper. Beat all the ingredients together, refrigerate for an hour. Spread generously over any meat or pasta". Mrs Marx thus wins herself a bottle of ambrosial Nicolas Feuillatte champagne plus, of course, *Le Bric* for her horse or guinea-pig.



Lineker: jellyfish attack

Jellyfish facts

Wimbledon Football Club take the week's jape award for their open letter to Gary Lineker, in which they called him a jellyfish. This is an old score dating back to Lineker's much-quoted remark that the only way to watch Wimbledon is on Cee-fax. Fact: Lineker never actually said this. On February 14, 1995, after a painful match between Leeds United and Wimbledon, Lineker merely said that the first half of that match was so bad you might as well have watched it on Cee-fax. But Wimbledon need their enemies — how would they survive if they

HOCKEY: REVAMPED FORMAT AND RULE CHANGE SIGNAL LAUNCH OF NATIONAL LEAGUE SEASON

Beeston out to catch the eye as new look sweeps in

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE National League starts today with a new format and the official implementation of a worldwide decision to eliminate the offside rule as a temporary measure. In recent practice matches, clubs have already begun to enforce this latest change.

The league was originally restructured to allow 24 teams in the new-look first division. With the withdrawal of Slough, this number has been reduced

and the aim is for a further cut to 20 within the next two seasons. The premier division, made up in its first season of 12 teams playing one another on a home and away basis, will start next weekend.

All eyes are on Beeston, winners last season of the second division, which has been scrapped in favour of the new format. They will be hoping to gain admission to the premier division from the first and their latest recruits include Danny Williams, from South-

gate, Paul Sheardown and Richard Stamp, who joined them from Doncaster.

Gavin Featherstone returns to coach Oxford University, runners-up last season to Beeston. Oxford have lost four players from their squad of last year, but recent reinforcements include Nicholas Pirih and John MacCormick, both from New Zealand. The new captain, Matthew Barr, is also a New Zealander.

When Sheardown takes the field for

Beeston today, he will be playing against his former club, Hull, who are bound to miss his services in the forward line. Indian Gymkhana, visiting Blueharts, have snapped up several players from Slough.

Bournville, relegated from the first division last season, have several new faces in the side for the trip to Isca. These include Chris Kent, from Indian Gymkhana, James Clement, Chris Graham and Richard McCollum, all formerly with Harborne.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

RAVANELLI REVEALS ALL IN HIS FIRST BIG INTERVIEW

NEWS OF THE WORLD

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

TENNIS: DAVIS CUP PROMOTION BECKONS AFTER TWIN TRIUMPH OVER EGYPT

Henman and Rusedski put Britain on course

BY ALIX RAMSAY

WIMBLEDON in September seldom inspires memories of the great moments of British tennis, but on a cold, drab day on No 1 Court, Great Britain took a decisive step towards promotion in the Davis Cup. Straight-sets wins for Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the match against Egypt put Britain within one match of promotion from group two of the Euro-African zone and a chance to move further up the ladder next year.

In theory, yesterday's opening singles rubbers should have been simple and straightforward. On ranking alone, Henman and Rusedski are head and shoulders above the best that Egypt has to offer. Both men have traded blows with the best in the world on the world's most famous courts. By contrast, Tamer el Sawy, the top

medics. With Rusedski's powers of concentration in doubt, such interruptions do little for the confidence. But, serving a total of 16 aces, he was never in trouble. After an hour and 36 minutes of play, it was all over 6-2, 6-4, 7-5.

With Egypt's No 1 safely dispatched, Henman's task against Amr Ghoneim, the world No 522, seemed easy. Until the second point, that was. As he moved to return the Ghoneim service, "I tried to move one way and my legs were having none of it," Henman said. Ending up sprawled on the grass, the greatest fear for David Lloyd, the Britain captain, was that he had aggravated the groin strain that has kept him out of action for the past two weeks.

In the end the fears were unfounded and Henman raced away with the first set in 20 minutes without dropping a game. But that was when the problems really started. Ghoneim gradually grew in confidence while Henman could not keep his mind on the job. By the third set the nerves were jangling on the British bench, as Ghoneim broke for a 5-3 lead and held a point to take the set.

"I felt the match was under control," Henman said, "but that is when you can be vulnerable. When you're ahead in a match, you have to keep pushing on, you have to keep putting the nails in the coffin. And he also started to play better."

But you do not get to be No 33 in the world by letting matches slip through your fingers. Henman broke back immediately, pinning Ghoneim down with some dipping returns that caught his advancing opponent unawares. Back on level terms at 5-5, normal service was resumed and Henman broke again to leave himself the relatively simple task of serving for the match to win 6-0, 6-4, 7-5.

Maybe the result had not been quite as easy as it had looked on paper, but two wins on the board put Britain in the driving seat with the chance to put the tie beyond doubt today, when Neil Broad and Mark Petchey play el Sawy and Ghoneim in the doubles.

"We knew when we played against Monaco last year that we had a good team, but we needed to prove it," Henman said. "Now that we have three good wins under our belts, and we are 2-0 up here, we are very confident. We have been clear favourites in every match so far and sometimes it is a little embarrassing to be playing in division two with a team of this standard. It is very important for us to get out of this group and back up where we belong."



Rusedski: perfect record



Henman reaches a backhand on his way to victory yesterday. Photograph: Gary Prior/Allsport

Gaudenzi gives Italy advantage

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ITALY and Sweden grasped the early initiative by winning the opening singles in their respective Davis Cup semi-finals against France and the Czech Republic yesterday. In Nantes, Andrea Gaudenzi rallied from a set down to beat Cedric Pioline 5-7, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3 while, in Prague, Thomas Enqvist defeated Petr Korda in straight sets.

Having beaten Denmark and Germany 5-0, France started warm favourites against Italy on the fast Greenset surface in Nantes. The Italians had won their earlier rounds on the slow clay courts in Rome.

After dropping the first set, Gaudenzi raced into a 4-0 lead in the second and took it 6-1 to level the match. The Italian made

another good start in the third, leading 3-0, but Pioline fought back to force the tie-break, only to lose it 7-4. Service breaks proliferated in the fourth set and, at 3-5, Pioline dropped his for the ninth, and last, time in the match. In the second singles, Arnaud Boetsch, of France, was due to play Renzo Furlan.

On an indoor carpet surface in Prague, Enqvist's powerful service proved the decisive factor against Korda, who double faulted frequently and dropped his service in the fifth game to lose the first set 6-4. Korda put Enqvist under greater pressure in the second set and enjoyed six break points. However, the Swede managed to hold service and went on to win the set 6-3.

A fluctuating third set went to a tie-break but Korda's inability to take break points — he squandered a further four — saw Enqvist take it 11-9 to complete a 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 victory.

In the second singles match, Stefan Edberg was due to play Daniel Vacek. Edberg suffered from inflammation of the Achilles tendon during the recent US Open but was passed fit to play as Sweden attempted to avoid their second successive semi-final exit. Twelve months ago, the Swedes went out to the United States.

Coincidentally, it was the Czech Republic who knocked the United States out this year, the Americans having played without their leading four players in their quarter-final defeat, in Prague, in April.

EQUESTRIANISM

IN BRIEF

King takes lead after confident dressage

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, the favourite to win the Blenheim Vauxhall Monterey International Horse Trials, rode serenely into the lead on the eight-year-old King Solomon after a confident dressage test yesterday that has given them a 1.6-point lead over Pippa Funnell, the winner last year, on Anne Burners The Tourmaline Rose.

There is little room for complacency, however. Three horses — including Mark Todd on his Gatcombe winner, Vambi Charboniere — are lying less than four points behind in joint-third place and only ten points separate the top 14 riders. With the cross-country course today reckoned to be the most demanding there has been at Blenheim, the dressage scores may quickly be put in perspective.

King, the winner of every significant British event in the past month, including the Burghley Horse Trials, will not be easy to dislodge. King Solomon has barely put a foot wrong, finishing first and second in his two previous three-day events — Compiègne and Le Lion d'Angers — and finishing second behind his stablemate King William in the British Open last month.

"The course is well within his limits," King said, "and he has never run out at a corner fence yet — but there's always a first time." She has the additional advantage of going last — horses are running in reverse order of merit — which means she can revise her route if any of the fences she is concerned about, particularly Fence 9 in the main arena and the double of corners at 20, are not jumping well.

Funnell is not so confident. The Tourmaline Rose, a seven-year-old grey mare, had a run-out at the infamous Fence 5 at Gatcombe and then spooked and refused to go near the fence. At Bramham in June, Funnell had to pull her up three fences from the end because the mare, who is kept with her owner in between events, was "cooked".

The fitness problem is unlikely to recur. Funnell has had the mare at home in the three weeks before Blenheim and has got her much leaner than she was at Bramham. The horse's ability has never been in doubt. Funnell's husband, William, the international show-jumper, has already tried to pinch her because of her "unbelievable" jump. "She'll either go brilliantly tomorrow or the reverse," Funnell said.

Todd will be quick to capitalise on any mistakes. The nine-year-old Vambi Charboniere has not been the easiest of horses — he fell at Brigstock at the beginning of the season — but he is now going sweetly for the dual Olympic champion and comes to Blenheim at the top of his form after his convincing win at Gatcombe three weeks ago.

Results, page 46

Shah keeps Sri Lanka waiting for victory

THE oldest member of the Zimbabwe team, 37-year-old left-hander Ali Shah, scored his maiden Test half-century to frustrate Sri Lanka hopes of winning the second Test inside three days yesterday. Shah, going in with Zimbabwe nine for one after starting their second innings 209 runs behind, battled to a dogged, unbeaten 62 in 287 minutes to help his side end the day on 162 for six.

Zimbabwe still need a further 47 runs to avoid an innings defeat after Sri Lanka had earlier taken their first innings score to 350 for eight declared, with Hashan Tillekeratne recording a personal Test best of 126 not out.

Allian Border, the former Australia captain, and the feared new-ball attack of the Kiwis, Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, will reunite to face the West Indians in a limited-overs match. Michael Holding is also expected to line up against his countrymen in the traditional opening tour match against the Australian Cricket Board XI in Perth on November 4.

Flying start

Tennis: Britain's Under-21 women's team made a successful start in their defence of the Maureen Connolly Trophy against the United States in Austin, Texas, yesterday. They ended the first of three days of competition 3-1 up, with victories from Jo Ward and Mandy Wright, and from Claire Taylor and Lizzie Jelfs in the doubles. Britain needs to win only three further rubbers for victory.

Lee well placed

Golf: Robert Lee goes into the final round of the Eulen Open Galea in Bilbao, Spain, today chasing his second European Challenge Tour win of the season. Lee, from London, had a third round of 71 for a five-under-par total of 211, the same as José Sota, a 23-year-old cousin of the Ryder Cup captain, Severiano Ballesteros. They are one shot behind the leader, Stephen Sculliff, of Australia.

Race in doubt

Speedway: Promoters are threatening to drop the British grand prix from the international calendar next year because, under present arrangements, they do not receive any of the sponsorship money generated by the event to offset the expense of organising it. Terry Russell, the British Speedway Promoters' Association chairman, said: "We are considering whether to stage it or not."

Final four

Tennis: Chris Wilkinson, the No 1 seed from Hampshire, will face Federico Riva, of Sweden, in the semi-final of the LTA Autumn Satellite tournament at the Wirral today. Nick West, also of Hampshire, meets Andrew Richardson, of Lincolnshire, to decide the other finalist.

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RACING 44, 45

Paddock incident leaves Carson in intensive care

LIFE has been a box of chocolates for Damon Hill for much of the year, but the soft centres have turned decidedly bitter-sweet. Last night, as the Englishman stood on the brink of his first drivers' world championship, Bernie Ecclestone, the most powerful man in Formula One, spelt out a few home truths.

Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association and an increasing admirer of Hill, advised him in bleak terms that he should either leave the sport once he has won the world championship this year or resign himself to an altruistic end to his career without hope of another title victory.

It appears that both Ecclestone and Hill, who leads the championship by 13 points going into the penultimate

round, the Portuguese Grand Prix, tomorrow, are growing increasingly pessimistic about the chances of getting him Jean Alesi's drive at Benetton-Renault. Alesi is rumoured to be asking for £12 million in severance pay were he to be forced out.

This sum outstrips even the amount that Renault are prepared to pay to put Hill and the prestigious No 1 he would bring with him if he is world champion, in a car powered by their engines. The other top teams — Williams, Ferrari and McLaren — have freshly painted "No Vacancy" signs outside their motorhomes.

It seems more and more likely, in fact, that Hill is being pushed into the outstretched arms of Jordan-Peugeot, where he would form an intriguing partnership with Ralf Schumacher, 21, the younger brother of his greatest rival. The German's signing

was formally announced at a press conference here yesterday morning.

Jordan, who hope to make a great leap forward next season, would offer Hill the chance of podium positions. More importantly, the influence of the ebullient team owner, Eddie Jordan, would rid Hill of the whingeing image that he has been unfairly labelled with and thus give him the one thing a world champion never could.

It would also mean, though, that Hill would have to accept a huge pay-cut, probably to less than half his present £6 million, if he joined the Irish team, but Ecclestone implied last night that Hill, whose fate many believe was sealed long before this season began, when Williams secretly signed Heinz-Harald Frentzen, has little choice. Ecclestone said that Hill had destroyed his chances of signing for another



Hill focuses on the task ahead during practice yesterday

year with Williams by asking for £10 million.

"It is unfortunate that Damon cannot defend his championship in the team with which he won it," Ecclestone said. "Now, though, it looks as if he is going to have to quit or settle for a role in which he can give something back to the sport. You have got to know when to go. When you have peaked, you say 'adieu'."

"If he went to Jordan, he could take on the role of having Ralf Schumacher under his wing and help him along at the beginning of his career. He would give Jordan a boost, too, and there is no reason why Eddie Jordan, the team owner, cannot do what Frank Williams has done if he takes a few risks and works hard."

"You could even say that he [Hill] has the chance to help Michael's brother when Michael himself has refused to do that. Michael could have insisted that [Ralf] went to Ferrari with him, but he didn't do it. It will have to be a whole change of emphasis for Damon next year because he will have to resign himself to sacrificing his championship."

"If he accepted that and went to Jordan, it would be good for him and the sport. If he is not in a position to defend the championship, Jordan

would be the next best thing to do. He could say: 'I am world champion, so now I am going to give something back.'

Hill stayed tight-lipped about his future after finishing second in practice yesterday. He said that he was in discussions with a number of teams and had not considered retiring. He admitted, though, that he was surprised at the speed of the rise of the younger Schumacher.

"I thought the world could probably bear only one Schumacher, but now we have got two," he said. "I did not even know he had a brother until earlier this year, so it has all rather caught me by surprise. He seems very confident and he has got a great opportunity."

Aside from the obvious benefits of his name and the £3 million worth of sponsorship money he is supposed to be bringing to the team, Jordan

has plumped for the world champion's brother because of his proven talent. He won the prestigious Formula 3 race in Macao last year and now leads the Formula Nippon championship in Japan.

His capture and the possibility that Hill may soon follow should represent the dawn of a bright new era for Jordan, who have endured a surprisingly lacklustre season this year. Benson and Hedges announced an increased commitment to the team yesterday and their prospects for next year look healthier by the day.

"There had to be a big strategy change for next year," Ecclestone said. "Maybe, in the years to come, we will say that our transition year from being nearly there to a place in the top four teams came in 1996." Hill, for one, is probably praying he is right.

Practice times, page 46

World No 1 forgets foursomes defeat to peg back United States

Davies drives Europe's revival

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LAURA DAVIES was always likely to be the dominant figure in the Solheim Cup but few could have foreseen precisely how she would influence proceedings on the first day at St Pierre. In the morning foursomes, Davies played as if she were a hacker. In the afternoon fourballs, she played as if she were a goddess. Rarely have the heights and depths that a golfer is susceptible to been so demonstrated as they were by the world's No 1 woman golfer yesterday.

The result of Davies' turnaround was an improvement in Europe's fortunes as they competed for the cup presented by Karsten Solheim, the Norwegian-born American



EUROPE • USA

who invented Ping golf clubs. After the United States had won or halved all four of the foursomes matches, Davies adopted what can only be described as a scorched-earth policy in the afternoon. With a display of breathtaking golf, she led her team-mates to counter-attack with spirit and effectiveness. After the first day's play, the US led 5-3.

Though the Americans won the foursomes 3½-1½, the matches were all close, three ending on the home green, the fourth on the 18th. Mickey Walker, the Europe captain, though obviously disappointed, nevertheless stressed to her team how things could turn round in matchplay golf. Even she could not have expected the extent of the change in fortunes that would occur after lunch. At one point Europe led in all four matches.

The turnaround was hatched in the team room when Kathryn Marshall, who had not played in the morning, entered to confront a sea of gloomy faces. Marshall was



Davies, right, celebrates with Johnson after chipping in for a birdie to go five up with seven holes to play in their afternoon fourball

having none of it. "I wanted to remind them that this was meant to be fun," Marshall said. She put on a tape entitled 'We've got the Power' and the room was filled with deafening music.

That deafening blast changed everything, notably Davies. She was more sinner than sinned against in the morning against Patty Sheehan and Rosie Jones, and thus she and Alison Nicholas lost their first foursomes in this event.

Too often on a dismal morning when rain was always threatening but did not arrive, Davies looked as though she was trying a touch too hard and, as a result, shots went awry. But, knowing what a competitor and a team person she is, it was always

likely that she would bounce back and the way she played in the afternoon beggared belief.

"Come on, let's go and do this," she said to Matthew Adams, her caddy, on the 1st tee and Davies, helped by Trish Johnson from time to time, then went and did it. She birdied the first three holes,

holed from six feet, 20 feet and 12 feet and nearly holed in one on the 8th, her drive of 275 yards grazing the hole.

This was the Davies of legend, attacking the course and bringing it to its knees with a devastating mixture of power and deftness. She played with such a furious intent that Kelly Robbins and

Pat Bradley were simply swept aside.

Davies chipped in on the 11th, hit an enormous drive on the 12th that set up another birdie and a drive on the 13th, fully 80 yards in front of the other three, that gave her the chance to birdie that hole and end the match. She and Johnson had nine birdies between them in 13 holes. Her smile after this performance was as wide as her shoulders.

Marshall's performance was impressive, too. She and Annika Sorenstam were three-up at the turn against Val Skinner and Jane Geddes, two Americans who had been rested in the morning, and Marshall was looking just as comfortable as her distinguished partner. Skinner won the 5th, when her ball was

stopped by a photographer and she chipped in, and clearly won the 13th. There, her drive rebounded from a tree and she all but holed her second. However, Sorenstam gained a half with a putt for a birdie from 20 feet and the Europeans held on to win by one hole.

Just when it looked as though Europe could emerge unbeaten from the fourballs in the afternoon, Dottie Pepper and Betsy King overcame Liselotte Neumann and Catrin Nilsmark thanks to an inspired run by Pepper. As dusk gathered over the Severn estuary, Helen Alfredsson and Nicholas, who were never down in their match against Meg Mallon and Beth Daniel, were denied victory when Daniel holed from 12 feet on the 18th to snatch a half-point.

Pepper, who was the last American to top the world rankings, holed a ten-foot putt for a birdie three at the 8th to win the hole. On the second nine, she applied the afterburners, blasting her side into a two-hole lead with three birdies in a row from the 11th.

However, it was a birdie three at the 15th that was to prove crucial. Neumann had won the 14th with a birdie and Nilsmark had followed up with one of her own at the next. Pepper was 18 feet away and her putt for the half was right in the middle.

In the end, it was King who closed out a superb match with a birdie four at the 18th, but she was in a position to do so because of her partner's peerless performance.

Docherty offers aid to City

ANOTHER avenue was closed to Manchester City in their search for a new manager yesterday when Bruce Rioch accepted the job as Stewart Houston's assistant at Queens Park Rangers, a surprising reversal of roles (Peter Ball writes). Until Rioch's dismissal, Houston had been his assistant at Arsenal and stayed on as caretaker.

Houston finally left Highbury last week to take over at QPR and Rioch is his first appointment. "People will talk about reversal of roles, but Bruce knows the situation," Houston said. "I'm the boss and I envisage no problems."

Rioch had always seemed an unlikely candidate for Manchester City, but yesterday an even more unlikely one emerged. Tommy Docherty, once manager of Houston and Rioch with Scotland, now earning his crust as an after dinner speaker and radio pundit, volunteered his services as a consultant, working with a young coach.

"It's a genuine offer," Docherty, 72, said. "I am prepared to help City until they appoint a permanent manager. All Francis Lee [the chairman] has to do is give me a call. Things have reached rock bottom, and Manchester needs two great clubs."

Cultured Nelson, page 46
Premiership guide, page 47

Gatting's ploy just not cricket

MIKE GATTING deflected attention from Leicestershire's relentless quest for the county championship yesterday when he became involved in a dispute with the umpires over the use of a tactic the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is seeking to outlaw (Alan Lee writes).

Gatting, captain of a Middlesex side being thoroughly outplayed in the match that will take the title to Leicestershire for the first time in 21 years, sanctioned Phil Tufnell, the England left-arm spinner, bowling over the wicket into the leg-stump rough. More contentiously, he stationed his wicketkeeper, Keith Brown, two feet outside leg stump.

Phil Simmons, Leicestershire's West Indies all-rounder, objected to Brown's position on the grounds that he constituted a third fielder behind square on the leg side, where the laws of the game permit only two. He raised the matter with the umpires, Barrie Leadbeater and Peter Willey, who then discussed it protractedly and animatedly with Gatting.

Leadbeater finally referred the dispute to the TCCB, whose cricket secretary, Tim Lamb, while condemning the practice as "not an edifying part of the game," ruled that Brown was within the laws of cricket.

Champions elect, page 51

Peerless Pepper presents more acceptable face



Pepper: successful in the foursomes and fourballs

Wales should suit Dottie Pepper — dragons breathing fire and all that — and yesterday, on the first day of the fourth Solheim Cup, the combustible American lit up St Pierre with the quality of her golf, especially in the afternoon fourballs.

Pepper was, to use the jargon, pumped up, but it was not the near hyperventilation of The Greenbrier two years ago, when she won all three of her matches, but in a style that overplayed the outer obnoxiousness. This was the acceptable face of the United States No 1, and she showed that it is not necessary to mimic a raving lunatic to be as fierce a competitor as there is in golf.

In the morning foursomes, Pepper partnered Brandie Burton, who played with an ankle injury, against the Swedes. Helen Alfredsson and Liselotte Neumann, in a repeat of the match two years ago. The Americans were greeted with polite applause and the Swedes got an enthusiastic chorus from one of Abba's greatest hits. Still, Pepper managed a smile, but it was interesting that the referee, Jim Haley, took the players aside and gave them their instructions, as though he were telling them that he expected a good, clean fight.

There were no fireworks on a blustery day but the Americans, who had won 3 and 2 last time, came from behind,

Patricia Davies on the American who has learnt to channel her innate aggression

to win again 2 and 1, as the Swedes frittered away strokes in the closing stages. "We didn't play as well as we had hoped, but we certainly made our pressure points," Pepper said.

The Swedes agreed. "You can only congratulate Dottie. She putted extremely well today and is an extremely good match player," Neumann said.

Neumann was to have that confirmed in the fourballs,

when, in company with Catrin Nilsmark, she faced Pepper and Betsy King. Fourballs suit Pepper because it is the most aggressive form of the game, giving her two balls to shout at, her own and her partner's. The instructions are loud and usually terse: "Get back there." "Be right." "Bite." "Sit."

"Isn't she noisy?" one Welshwoman said to another. What is more, the ball usually listens and, in a match of the highest quality, Pepper's passion — and her play, particularly her putting — eclipsed even the admirable Nilsmark and the gritty Neumann, who was not at her imperious best.

Two down after seven

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Bosnia war crimes judge condemns half-hearted West

Reluctance to arrest the main culprits is undermining the Balkan tribunal's credibility, the chief prosecutor tells

Ben Macintyre in The Hague

The war crimes tribunal in The Hague may be fatally undermined unless the West takes swift steps to arrest Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb war crime suspects, Richard Goldstone said angrily this week as he prepared to step down as the tribunal's chief prosecutor.

In an interview with *The Times*, the outspoken South African judge expressed his "tremendous frustration and unhappiness" at Nato's refusal to hunt down the Bosnian Serb leader and his military commander and bring them to justice, while he attacked the West's "hands-off" approach as "highly inappropriate, to put it mildly".

Dr Karadzic and General Mladic face international arrest warrants for allegedly "instigating, planning and ordering the genocide and the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia."

So far, 74 arrest warrants have been issued for suspected Bosnian war criminals, but only eight are currently in custody and the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia are under orders to arrest individuals only if they come across them in the course of their duties.

"They know where these people are, and according to our information the men on the ground are as frustrated as we are and would like to go now and get them," the judge said.

The West's reluctance to apprehend the suspects is "very much a political decision", he added, noting that the US is particularly unwilling to risk possible bloodshed and domestic political criticism by attempting to round up the indicted Bosnian Serb leaders.

"Any decent, rational human being must recognise how inappropriate it is for the international community not to arrest these people when you look at the massive crimes they're charged with. Compare it to a national situation. It would be ridiculous to suggest that the police shouldn't go and arrest massive criminals like this because they might get injured," Mr Justice Goldstone said. He noted that his successor as chief prosecutor, Judge Louise Arbour, of Canada, faces a daunting job when she takes over on October 1.

The court at The Hague "is effectively being prevented from doing the job it was set



Judge Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague

up to do, and if this continues too long it's going to destroy the credibility of the tribunal", he said.

The continuing trial of Dusko Tadic has attracted widespread media attention but the judge conceded that the Serbian café owner, who is charged with horrific crimes against humanity, was a comparatively minor player in Bosnia's genocidal violence.

Mr Tadic is accused of torture, sexual assault and the murders of up to 13 people, while Mr Karadzic and General Mladic have been accused of responsibility for the deaths of 7,000 Muslims in the enclave of Srebrenica alone.

As a South African and the former head of the three-year commission to investigate political violence, human rights abuses and intimidation in his

own country, the judge was widely praised for exposing the shadowy "third force" of white security force members who fomented violence between rival black groups.

An intense man, whose passionate belief in the tribunal's moral role contrasts with a clipped, often legalistic turn of phrase, Mr Justice Goldstone believes that

the importance of the court is primarily symbolic, but he also emphasised that the proceedings provide a unique opportunity to build an international legal code to deal with war crimes and perhaps render them less likely in the future.

The central function and purpose of the tribunal is to establish individual as opposed to collective guilt. That

was the importance of Nuremberg. It enabled the German people to come to grips with their own terrible inheritance from the Third Reich," Mr Justice Goldstone said.

But whereas the war crimes trials then were staged by the victors and involved the conviction of key criminals on the basis of voluminous evidence, the tribunal at The Hague is hampered by lack of funds

and international co-operation. "We decided our strategy must be to go for the leaders because of the small number we could put on trial . . . but without the big fish, the symbolic power is dissipated," the judge noted bitterly.

The judge, who will be returning to South Africa next month to take his seat at constitutional court, said he felt "substantial satisfaction" that the machinery for prosecuting Bosnia's war criminals had been put in place, but "unhappy and frustrated that so few arrests have been made, notwithstanding the issuing of arrest warrants".

If last weekend's elections finally restore a greater measure of political stability in Bosnia then Mr Karadzic and General Mladic may become increasingly marginalised, and thus "pressure for their arrest is going to increase, not decrease", Mr Justice Goldstone predicted, adding that "the next six months are vital".

He believes that the Bosnian war crimes tribunal and its sister proceedings for Rwanda represent an unprecedented legal effort that may pave the way for a permanent international court to punish and perhaps prevent crimes against humanity.

But he leaves The Hague with a stern warning: with the ringleaders of the mass murder in Bosnia still at large and only a handful of alleged criminals behind bars awaiting trial, the tribunal risks being remembered instead as a hollow monument to good intentions.

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THE EXPERTS IN HOME IMPROVEMENT

Surrender or die, Seoul tells trapped spies from North

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NORTH KOREAN infiltrators from a stranded submarine were last night trapped in disused mineshafts as South Korean security forces closed in after a three-day manhunt.

Troops with loudhailers shouted their demands that the men give themselves up across a wind-blown stretch of rugged mountainside which is pockmarked with mineshafts. Overhead, helicopters scattered leaflets calling on the men to surrender.

"You are surrounded. If you abandon your weapons and surrender, you can live. Most of your colleagues have been shot to death. We urge you to surrender immediately," an army officer shouted repeatedly through a loudspeaker on a military vehicle.

The fugitives were the remnants of a squad of armed infiltrators who came ashore in South Korea after their submarine struck a reef on Wednesday. Eighteen are con-

firmed to have been shot dead and one has been captured alive out of what is believed to have been an original total of 26 infiltrators.

Media reports quoted the captured man as telling interrogators that 26 North Koreans had landed. Three, he said, were saboteurs — trained to survive behind enemy lines and cover huge distances on foot. They were among those still at large.

In case they evaded the dragnet around the mines, South Korean troops were last night lying in ambush along roads and mountain passes leading to North Korea, a Defence Ministry official in Kangnung said. South Korean forces saturating the area were uncertain how many North Koreans had taken refuge in the mine, which is about ten miles from where they landed near the east coast city of Kangnung.

In the three-day sweep, 60

miles south of the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, troops have also retrieved five assault rifles, four handguns, ammunition, clothes and two radio transmitters. A camera and magazines for US-made M16 rifles were also found.

In Washington, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, urged "all parties" to avoid further provocative action. Seoul said it would brief the UN Security Council on the drama and Japan denounced the incident. "We have an interest in peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and it is deplorable that North Korea has brought about this incident," Seiroku Kajiyama, a government spokesman, said. "We call on North Korea immediately to end these kinds of actions."

Pyeongyang remained silent over the fracas, but an official radio broadcast gave its veiled reaction to the incident, accus-



South Korean soldiers disembark to search mountain passes for the runaway infiltrators from the North

ing South Korea of taking "provocative action". There was no reference to the squad of infiltrators virtually wiped out over the past three days.

The South Korean puppets on the 17th and 18th [of September] took successive

provocative actions against North Korea near the demilitarised zone," said a Korean Central Radio broadcast monitored in Tokyo. North Korean media carried official threats to restart the nuclear programme, accusing Wash-

ington of remaining hostile to the North in violation of a 1994 bilateral accord. Seoul has described the incident as the most serious infiltration since the 1960s and a military provocation. The landing has reminded South Koreans how

vulnerable they are to attack by their capricious arch-enemy in the north.

Seoul said last night that Gong Ro Myung, its Foreign Minister, would condemn the North Korean intrusion before the United Nations.

Japanese militants to repeat islands expedition

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

JAPANESE nationalists are planning a new expedition to uninhabited islands claimed by both China and Taiwan, despite warnings by Peking and undoubted sentiment provoked by their activities on the chain of rocks in the East China Sea.

As the Japanese Government appealed yesterday for a "calm approach" to the territorial dispute over the islets — called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese — the right-wing Japan Youth Federation said that the planned sortie would reinforce Tokyo's sovereignty over the islands.

The federation, a 3,000-strong nationalist group with roots in the underworld, is at the centre of the present flare-up of tension in the region. In July, Toyonaka Eto, the federation's leader, sent seven followers to build a token lighthouse on the islands, located 200 miles west of Okinawa. On September 9 a second landing party went to repair damage to the lighthouse caused by a typhoon.

The next day China warned Japan of serious damage to relations if it failed to stop right-wing activity on the islands. This week Chinese people in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan have vented their anger in street protests and called for boycotts of Japanese goods.

Seiroku Kajiyama, Japan's chief government spokesman, sought yesterday to lessen the tension. "Japan and China, or Japan and Taiwan, must avoid anything so reckless as destroying their relationship," Mr Kajiyama said. "We need to take a calm approach to this issue."

He repeated that Japan had sovereignty over the islands and rejected Chinese demands that the Government should remove the offending lighthouse. "It is crystal-clear that we have sovereignty," he said. "As Japan is a democratic society, the Japanese Government cannot say anything about building something on private land."

Mr Eto said that he would send a team to the islands in November for maintenance work on the lighthouse. Flanked by youths in paramilitary uniforms, he accused Tokyo of timidity and said there was a danger that China would seize the Senkaku chain by force if Japan failed to take a stronger line.

China lost the islands after a war with Japan in 1895 and showed little interest in reclaiming them until 1968, when a United Nations report concluded that the area was a promising site for oil and gas exploration.

Drug raid police hold Britons

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police arrested 22 American, Irish and British nationals yesterday after a three-day drugs operation. The 13 men and nine women were reported to be in their twenties.

The arrests came after police seized 1,521 tablets of the rave drug Ecstasy, 4.4lb of cannabis, 10.5oz of cocaine and 50 tablets of LSD during raids on 41 premises. Two groups of "predominately European drug traffickers" have been identified, police reported. Officers were expecting to make further arrests both in Hong Kong and overseas. (Reuters)

Family rattled by 'Netanyahu'

Jerusalem: Ibrahim al-Abadi, an Arab farmer in Jordan, has infuriated his wife and family by naming his son "Netanyahu" after the Israeli leader because the boy's Jewish namesake had flown to meet King Hussein (Christopher Walker writes). One angry uncle said he saw a likeness between baby and namesake: "He is always agitated and has not smiled once."

Gay 'spouses' get IBM benefits

New York: Homosexual rights made another gain in America this week when International Business Machines (IBM), the multinational computer company, said it will extend spouse benefits to lovers of gay, US-based employees (Quentin Letts writes). Homosexual campaigners hailed a victory for equality.

Baboons betray cannabis runner

Harare: A long-distance lorry driver who tried to smuggle cannabis into Zimbabwe started a six-month jail term, thanks to a troop of baboons (Michael Hartnack writes). They scented the drug and tore off tarpaulins covering the load at the Zambia border.



A Taiwanese protests at the Japanese claim

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SEPTEMBER 21 1996
Japanese militants to repeat islands expedition

Dole seizes on Clinton drug 'joke' in crusade for votes

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, trailing badly in the opinion polls, yesterday launched his most personal attack yet on President Clinton with a new television advertisement showing his rival joking that he would inhale marijuana given another chance.

Mr Clinton, meanwhile, hinted that he might give his wife, Hillary, another high-profile public role if he wins re-election despite her disastrous attempt to reform America's healthcare system.

During the 1992 campaign Mr Clinton admitted trying marijuana while an Oxford student but insisted he did not inhale. The Dole advertisement shows a clip of a teenage MTV audience asking him later in that campaign whether he would inhale another time. "Sure, if I could, I tried before," he replied, laughing.

"In front of our children, on MTV, the President himself..." intones the narrator, who reminds viewers that teenage drug use has doubled since 1992. "Bill Clinton doesn't get it — but we do."

The advertisement is part of a new anti-drugs crusade Mr Dole launched this week in the belief that drug abuse is an issue that resonates among key suburban voters and on which the President is vulnerable.

Mr Dole has argued that his 1992 comment was lighthearted, and in no way meant to suggest experimentation with drugs was acceptable. In an interview with Barbara Walters on ABC television last night, he went further, saying of his Oxford flirtation with marijuana: "It was wrong."

In the same interview, Mr Clinton suggested he might enlist his wife to improve the

radical Republican Bill on welfare reform that he signed in July — another comment Republicans will seize on.

"I said [the Bill] was the beginning, not the end, and I think the real advocates of children, including the First Lady, have to weigh in," he said. "I think the business people will listen to her. I think child advocates will listen to her. I think that people at the state level will."

Mrs Clinton, seated next to her husband, said it was the first she had heard of such an assignment. "Sounds like an exciting..." she began, but Mr Clinton hastily interrupted. "It's not a formal role. It's not a formal role," he insisted.

The Bill returned responsibility for welfare to the states, ended a 60-year guarantee of federal assistance to the poor and would, by the Administration's own estimates, push a million children into poverty. Despite the furious opposition of many Democrats, President Clinton signed it.

Two new national polls yesterday put Mr Dole 16 and 22 percentage points behind Mr Clinton, but the true measure of the 73-year-old Republican's plight are individual state polls, which show him struggling to hold even those states that were considered rock-solid Republican.

He is five points behind in Florida, which has not voted for a Democrat in 20 years, and just one point ahead in Virginia, which last voted for a Democrat in 1964. In Arizona, which has voted Republican in every election since 1948, Mr Dole is level in one poll and an astonishing 18 points behind in another. He is level with Mr Clinton in North Dakota, which has voted solidly Republican for 32 years.

Mr Dole insists he will fight for the key state of California, but his prospects there look increasingly hopeless. Two polls yesterday put him 16 and 17 points behind, and he is trailing Mr Clinton in Orange County, the birthplace of the "Reagan Revolution".

White House officials are now suggesting that the President might offer Ross Perot a one-to-one debate if the Dole camp continues to bar the Texan from this autumn's official debates. They believe Mr Perot can fragment the Republican vote further.



Workers are shepherded by armed police as they hurry from the office of a legal firm in West Palm Beach, Florida, after a gunman entered the building and shot two lawyers, one of whom died. The gunman, who was named later by the police as Terry Hogan, killed himself at the end of a four-hour siege on Thursday

Party strategists turn to fight for Congress

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WITH President Clinton seemingly cruising to victory in November, Republicans and Democrats are rapidly turning their attention to the autumn's real contest: the battle for Congress.

Mr Clinton this week ordered his own top fundraiser, Terry McAuliffe, to launch a multimillion-dollar Democratic congressional candidates, and for the first time has begun calling for a Democratic Congress in campaign speeches.

Richard Gephardt, the Democrats' House leader, is striving to convince America that his party has learnt from its 1994 defeat, promising: "We will do a better job." He has rallied his party behind a centrist platform, "Families First", and insists: "We're all 'New Democrats' now. We have to be. Times change."

Newt Gingrich's Republicans are issuing warnings about returning Congress to big-spending "liberals" and are rushing through legislation to soften their extremist image.

On Thursday they agreed to expand insurance coverage for the mentally ill and let new mothers stay longer in hospital. The Republicans recently passed legislation allowing Americans who lose their jobs to keep their health insurance. They are also seeking an early budget agreement to erase memories of last winter's government shutdowns. "I've not seen this dramatic a change in colour or stripes since I've been in the zoo," quipped Tom

Daschle, the Democrats' Senate leader.

To recover the control of Congress they lost for the first time in 40 years in 1994, the Democrats must gain 19 House and three Senate seats.

If they succeed they could dramatically reshape President Clinton's second term by enabling him to pursue an activist domestic agenda.

Democrats pin their hopes on Mr Gingrich's unpopularity, polls showing voters more likely to vote Democrat in congressional races, and a low

bent are retiring, especially in the conservative South, and that historically a President's "coat-tails" have not proved very long. In 1972, when President Nixon buried George McGovern, the Democrats lost 12 House seats but gained two senators. In 1964, when President Johnson routed Barry Goldwater in the second biggest postwar landslide, the Democrats admittedly enjoyed a huge 38-seat gain in the House, but only picked up a pair of Senate seats. If Mr Clinton's reelection looks assured, voters could return a Republican Congress to constrain him.

All 435 House seats are being contested, and the Democrats are targeting the 73 first-term Republicans — the shock-troops of the Gingrich "Revolution". Of those, 47 won with less than 55 per cent support and the trade unions have swamped their districts with hostile advertisements.

The hottest of the 34 Senate races will be for the 14 seats — eight Democratic, six Republican — where incumbents are retiring. The other key races are in Massachusetts, where Bill Weld, the Governor, is challenging John Kerry, the Democrat incumbent, in Minnesota, where Paul Wellstone, a liberal Democrat, faces Rudy Boschwitz and in North Carolina, where Jesse Helms again battles Harvey Gantt, his black opponent from 1990. In New Hampshire and South Dakota, the Republican incumbents, Bob Smith and Larry Pressler, are both struggling.



ELECTION '96

Republican turnout if a Clinton win looks inevitable. The Republicans have also selected several hardline conservatives to fight seats where their incumbents are retiring and are in strategic disarray. They have no national platform like 1994's *Contract with America*. It is each candidate for himself, and some are studiously distancing themselves from Mr Gingrich and Bob Dole.

The Republicans take heart from the fact that the Democrats must defend many more seats where popular incum-

Broadway bows to 'brilliant Brit' actor

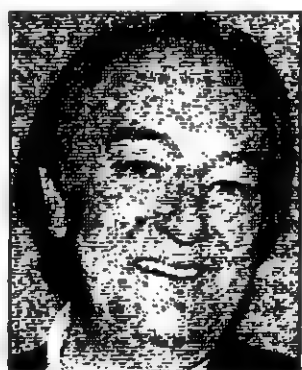
FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BRITISH theatre had its second success on Broadway in two weeks when Michael Gambon, star of the Royal National Theatre, scored a bullseye on his New York debut in David Hare's *Sky-light* alongside Lia Williams.

Local critics yesterday raved about the "brilliant Brit", as the *New York Daily News* described the veteran actor.

The critical praise is all the more notable for the fact that Gambon spurns the star system so beloved by Americans. Furthermore, his elastic, potato-like facial features contradicted the received wisdom in America that actors should resemble Adonis.

The success comes after acclaim for the singer Elaine Paige on her Broadway debut with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*.



Gambon: spurns the US star system

Armed police stop Kenyans buying British corned beef

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

ALARM over "mad cow" disease spread to Africa yesterday as the Kenyan Government impounded tonnes of corned beef believed to have come from Britain and posted armed police at supermarkets selling it.

A consignment of 3.2 tonnes of beef was seized by Mombasa port health authorities, who suspected the tinned meat might have been infected with BSE. The Government then revoked the trading licence for Nakumatt supermarkets, Kenya's second largest chain, forcing it to close outlets, and ordered police with automatic rifles to keep shoppers away from supermarkets in Mombasa, Eldoret and Nairobi, the country's three largest towns.

A government statement said that the corned beef had been brought to Kenya without clearance from the "relevant authorities".

The beef was originally thought to have come from Brazil, but the Kenyans later established that the meat was British.

Nakumatt Holdings, owners of the supermarket chain, placed newspaper advertisements defending itself against accusations that it was importing suspect beef; it claimed that meat had been "manufactured" in Brazil for John West Food of England and had been packed under "Brazilian government inspection".

No tests have yet been carried out, but the Kenyans have demanded that the beef be shipped back to Britain to "prevent the spread of a

potentially fatal disease to animals and humans".

Cheap processed meat, much of it from the European Union's mountains of unsold agricultural produce, has been marketed in Africa for many years, but few locals find it satisfactory.

Kenya's domestically produced beef, reared free-range on wild shrubs, would be the delight of any British consumer because it is cheap (top quality fillet costs about £2.50 a kg) and produced without chemicals, supplementary blood meal feed, or artificial hormones.

Vegetables from Kenya's highland farms fill the shelves of British supermarkets, and Kenya is the world's largest exporter of cut flowers. But government officials and farmers have been prevented from penetrating the European meat market by tariff barriers and the lack of abattoirs which meet EU standards.

"This may be one of the reasons behind the dramatic action taken by the Kenyan authorities," one Western diplomat commented. "There is also often a suspicion that inferior goods are being dumped on African markets." □ **Seoul:** Fears of "mad cow" disease are encouraging South Korean beef eaters to switch to pork, exacerbating shortages of pork at a time when exports of the meat are booming, an official said. The Government might have to start importing pork to guard against inflation. (Reuters)



Clinton as an Oxford student in 1968

Vasectomies will not curb koalas

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN wildlife experts yesterday condemned government proposals to give vasectomies and hormone implants to the country's expanding koala population in an attempt to prevent over-

crowding, saying that the project was doomed to failure because of the promiscuity of the creatures.

Roger Martin, a research fellow at Monash University in Victoria, said: "Vasectomising just won't work because koalas are highly promiscuous animals. You

only have to miss one and he will fertilise all the females right through the summer."

Koala experts suggest that a better solution could be achieved through the use of a sexually-transmitted organism, *Chlamydia*, to control population without causing total infertility.

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Floating voters drown out abortive declaration of independence by Bossi's Northern League

Padania mania ebbs

VENICE has returned to normal after Umberto Bossi's abortive proclamation of "Padania", his Northern League's term for independent northern Italy, to a thin crowd near the Doge's Palace a week ago.

The League banners, Alpine hats and menacing green-shirted stewards have disappeared from the waterfront. Venice, intended to be the Padanian capital, is given over again to tourists, the architecture Biennale and the new Tiepolo exhibition.

For Venetians, the hero of the hour is Massimo Cacciari, 52, the left-wing Mayor and former philosophy professor who stayed calm

VENICE FILE by RICHARD OWEN



during Padania mania. Venice, in Signor Cacciari's view, is not the capital of a mythical north Italian state: it is a proud city-state and a jewel of European culture with some real and urgent problems to address, including flood defences and pollution.

Venetians wonder whether it was their "philosopher king" who arranged for trains carrying pro- and anti-Bossi demonstrators to be

mysteriously held up on branch lines, or who asked passing cruise liners to drown Signor Bossi's waterfront oratory with their blaring klaxons. "Venice Under Siege" was the headline in the

Gazzettino di Venezia. But the locals were more sanguine. "Bossi belongs in an asylum, with people who think they are Napoleon," said Arrigo Cipriani, the owner of the legendary Harry's Bar, where business was being conducted as usual even during the League demonstration.

The view at Florian's café on St Mark's Square is that Signor Bossi chose the wrong city.

"Cacciari was right," said a waiter. "Venice was the wrong place for their make-believe capital. Everyone comes here. We've seen it all — the film festival stars, the Carnival, the Biennale. We tend to be a bit cynical."

Signor Cacciari's casual dress, left-wing credentials and understated manner conceal a fierce protective passion for the unique city he administers. He told Venetians to stay at home during the Padania rally, and mobilised police



Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing Mayor of Venice, believes the city is more than a mere mythical capital

in full riot gear at strategic canals and bridges to prevent trouble. It worked, to the relief of the Government in Rome, which had wavered between suppressing the Venice event and hoping it would fizzle out.

Will he stand again when his four-year term expires next year? At times Signor Cacciari yearns to return to academic life. But power has its attractions. Signor Cacciari and Antonio Bassolino, the like-minded and left-wing Mayor of

Naples, believe Mayors of Italy's former city-states are "the real leaders of Italy". They are urging Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, to acknowledge this by creating a new ministry to co-ordinate powerful city administrations.

Battle in a palazzo garden

THE big art exhibition in Venice this autumn is the magnificent display of paintings and frescoes by Tiepolo at the Ca' Razzonico. But the gossip in the palazzos is about a rather more recent Venetian collection: that of Peggy Guggenheim.

The Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal, Peggy Guggenheim's home for 30 years until her death in 1979, is showing an exhibition of graphic works by Max Ernst, who was married to her for one tempestuous year. But Guggenheim's descendants are incensed over what they say is the "insensitive" way the Guggenheim Foundation in New York has treated the eccentric and visionary Venice museum. In particular, her grandchildren are up in arms over the planned sale — apparently for \$1 million to a wealthy American collector — of the Palazzo Venier garden, where the great art patron's ashes were scattered.

German deaths in Venice

THOMAS MANN and Luchino Visconti have a lot to answer for. Death in Venice, it appears, has encouraged the idea that Venice is a romantic place in which to end one's life. Psychiatrists there say the number of foreigners who come to Venice to seek death by jumping into the canals or the lagoon is rising, with Germans in the fore-

front, followed by the Scandinavians. Suicide pacts are also common, as are homosexual suicides. Fabrizio Ramacciotti, a local psychiatrist, suggests Venice is seen as "a beautiful, unreal city at the end of the line", with the lagoon beckoning the suicidal. The "dark mixture of death and water" provides a deadly allure, he says.

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Rebel of Left seeks Greek power role

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

A LEFT-WING radical who left the Greek ruling Socialist Party (Pasek) last year because he said it was not socialist any more is preparing to play power-broker if the party squeals through to re-election tomorrow.

Although recent polls indicate no more than 6 per cent of voters supporting the ten-month-old Democratic Socialist Movement (DHKKI) headed by Dimitris Tsouvolas, the splinter party is a bigger threat to the Government than the conservative opposition, New Democracy.

Despite surging ahead last week, Miltiades Evert, the New Democracy leader, appeared to lose ground with what critics call inept posturing, such as insisting on overturning a multiparty agreement on media coverage of the campaign. But on the eve of the election, it was still too close to call. A post-poll deal with Mr Tsouvolas could swing Greece to the left,

politically and economically. A youthful 54, the son of a poor mountain family, he sees his chance for revenge on the champagne socialism of the kind typified by the Papandreu family and hangers-on. The wooden speaking style and aloofness of Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, have done much to erode his support. However, he has resisted the temptation to take a swaggering patriotic line, leaving that to the table-thumping Mr Evert, nicknamed "Bulldozer" by his supporters.

Whoever wins tomorrow faces formidable political problems. Neither large party is expected to receive a majority big enough to rule unhindered. If re-elected, Mr Simitis would almost certainly have to co-operate with Mr Tsouvolas, who is demanding "radical economic changes". That would mean a direct threat to Greece's hard-won adherence to the Maastricht treaty.

HOW THE PARTIES LINE UP

Greece's 8.9 million voters elect a 300-member unicameral legislature under a reinforced proportional system. The normal government term is four years.

The main parties are: Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) — leader, Costas Simitis; New Democracy (conservative free-market) — Miltiades Evert; Democratic Socialist Movement (DHKKI) — Dimitris Tsouvolas; Politiki Anisi (nationalist) — Antonio Samaras; Communist Party of Greece (KKE) — Aleka Papariga; Synaspismos (Coalition of the Left) — Nikos Konstantopoulos; Other parties: Party of Greek Hunters; Party of Responsible Citizens; National Royal Movement; Chrysi Avgchi (Golden Dawn; far right).

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OPINION
Clint Eastwood is only one of many who have learnt the true price of fame this week



OPERA
A disaster in Leeds: Opera North travesties Puccini with its new *Madam Butterfly*

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE
... but Harold Pinter's new play, *Ashes to Ashes*, is a subtle and deeply disturbing triumph



ON MONDAY
Can the Royal Opera rise to the challenge of Wagner? Read Rodney Milnes on *The Ring*

For once, Channel 4 has not gone far enough. Now that's a sentence I never thought I would write. But it is true. Next month the company that does for tasteful television what Liam Gallagher does for Anglo-American relations will launch a series called *The Fame Factor*, to explore "the darker side of stardom". You know the story: "rock wives" abandoned when the lads go philandering; child-stars grown up to be ugly nonentities; temptations; excesses; tantrums; addictions. Just an average morning in the Vatican, really.

But events have overtaken even the fevered imaginations of Channel 4's producers. Here is *The Times*'s cut-out-and-keep guide to some real-life "stresses" that have kept celebrities in the limelight this week. But remember, readers: don't try these strategies at home! At least, not unless you have a fully-trained publicist standing by.

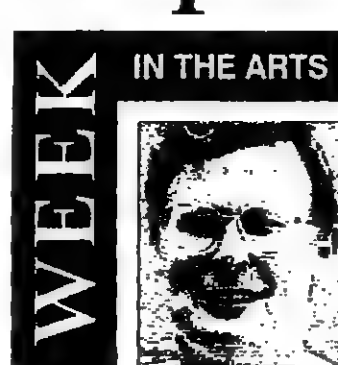
last week by Martin Shaw, an actor who gets very upset when people remember him for playing a ludicrous pocket action-man in *The Professionals*, rather than for all the meaningful Drama he has undertaken since. As he told the *London Evening Standard*, the adulation in those macho days was terribly tiresome, darling. "I left appropriated in the deepest sense and loathed it. That stuff doesn't happen any more. When you're past 40 that manic sexual fan energy begins to depart."

Do you know, Martin, I've begun to notice that as well! It's been several weeks now since I was properly appropriated by a burst of manic sexual fan energy. Quite a relief, really: it can be embarrassing on the Tube.

is wiser not to utter in court if you are a very rich star being sued by a former lover who claims that you behaved somewhat less gallantly than the heroes you play on screen. Another unhelpful phrase for your appearance in court might be: "Go on, pull the trigger; make my day." Poor old Clint. You found it much easier to solve problems when you were Dirty Harry, didn't you?

3. Last year's model. One moment you are Claudia Schiffer, the most highly-paid fashion model in the world. The next, well, you're 26. Finished. Washed up. Has-been. Passé. Presenting crockery demonstrations on the shopping channel — if you are lucky.

Yes, it's tragic but true. Last year the great fashion houses were scrambling to hire the fragrant fraülein with the big hair. No preposterous creation was consid-



RICHARD MORRISON

ered properly displayed until it had been animated with a winsome wiggle from the detectable Düsseldorfian derriere.

Now they are queuing to stick the knives in. "She is starting to

look haggard," said one Tomo Delaney, "London fashion agent", this week. "Claudia is part of another fashion, another time," echoed Karl Lagerfeld. And Jean Paul Gaultier added his own acidic coda: "She represents an old, recycled generation. I don't want to be nasty but she's got no personality." Gosh, what would he say if he did want to be nasty? Still, at least the comely Claudia now knows why it's called the carwalk.

Ah, the perils of being Diana, Princess of Wales! It seems that all your attempted acts of anonymous kindness are doomed to be besmirched by the disgraceful intrusions of reporters and cameras. The person who leaks details of such intimate moments should surely be exposed for the rotter that he, or she, is.

5. And finally, why bother to be creative at all? You are Britain's most famous composer of musicals. You have bought theatres, built theatres, refurbished theatres and, most important, filled theatres with merry melody and happy punters. For your industry, your talent, your staying power over several decades, you deserve your place at the top of the entertainment world.

But what's this? Those boundaries at *Forbes Magazine* have just

published a list of the world's highest-earning entertainers. And guess what, Sir Andrew? You only limp in 14th! Your meagre \$50 million estimated gross earnings for 1995 and 1996 put you well behind Jim Carrey (\$63 million), a film-star whose decent films to date can be counted on the fingers of one finger. Smoothie magician David Copperfield is even higher up the ladder at \$74 million, and — yet more galling — the Beatles (who, let's face it, have not been over-productive of late) are apparently raking in \$130 million.

But the real humiliation comes from the top. Earning a tolerable \$171 million — or rather more than three times what you are, Sir Andrew — is Oprah Winfrey. Yes, the highest-earning "entertainer" in the world is a woman whose chief talent is to persuade people to reveal their illnesses and traumas for the voyeuristic delight of watching millions. Good grief, it makes one feel quite well disposed towards Esther Rantzen. But that's entertainment, 1996-style.

Hard day at the publicist's, dear?



"A brittle, edgy voice, too monochrome to sustain interest in so long a dramatic role": but Chen Sue is only one of the downfalls of Opera North's *Butterfly*

Pinter finds himself in the soul of a woman

If modern drama has produced a more disturbing set of characters than Harold Pinter's men, they can only be Pinter's women. The extremes are Ruth in *The Homecoming*, the professor's wife who finds fulfillment and power in prostitution, and Sally in *Night School*, the demure teacher who doubles as a nightclub hostess. But there are others, too, who combine sexual charisma with a tantalising, troubling elusiveness; and, when the definitive Pinter history appears, Rebecca in his brilliant if difficult *Ashes to Ashes* will surely figure high among them.

THEATRE Ashes to Ashes Ambassadors

When Sylvia Plath wrote that "every woman adores a fascist, the boot in the face, the brute, brute heart of a brute like you", she was addressing an imagined father. But she might have been talking of Lindsay Duncan's abstracted yet intense Rebecca, part of whom years for the howl of police sirens and hankers for the fantasy lover who made her kiss his clenched fist, then forced her on to her back, legs open. To her, he is clearly far more potent and real than her husband, Stephen. Rea's Devlin. He talks and even acts tough, but is actually rather like Teddy in *The Homecoming*, an uneasy academic ineffectively trying to reclaim his wife's allegiance and restore her to normality.

Normality? Even the play's location suggests this will be hard to achieve. Pinter's hour-long production coolly unfolds on a grey, spare living-room set at the front of what's still vestigially recognisable as the dress circle of the Ambassadors, the West End playhouse to which the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs has moved while its Sloane Square headquarters are rebuilt. Nothing is very ordinary, least of all the creamy English rose played by Duncan.

She is a spiky woman, but it is her mind that really teems with thorns. The lover she claims, surely falsely, to remember might have stepped from one of Pinter's politically aware plays. He was, she says, a "travel agent" and "tour guide"; but, if so, it was presumably in the sense that Eichmann was those things. The "factory" he owned, filled as it was with smiling, bowing serfs, sounds like a cellar in Dachau. By way of completing the picture, he strode along station platforms "hearing be-

Moth-eaten

Where to start with a disaster on the scale of Opera North's new *Butterfly*? With the text. Say what you like about Puccini, you can't deny his stagecraft. *Butterfly* was probably the most challenging opera he wrote as far as structure and tone are concerned, and after its initial failure he worked hard to get it right, through the process of revision.

About 20 years ago, the Great East Berlin Opera Factory constructed a theory that Puccini was pressured by his publishers into revising the score, turning it from a swinging indictment of American imperialism into an anodyne romantic melodrama. The composer submitted, watering down a heartfelt

political statement in the interests of royalties. It was depressing to see this long discredited budge regurgitated in the Leeds programme.

What Puccini did was recognise that a drama with a pastiche villain is boring. He adjusted the character of Pinkerton, making it harder for men in the audience to avoid recognising him. He also trimmed the long first act, and tightened and restructured the last scene to include a brief aria of remorse for Pinkerton, revisions whose benefits are patent once people start reverting to the original, as happens — rather half-heartedly — in Leeds.

OPERA Madam Butterfly Grand Theatre, Leeds

producer, follows the dated line, presenting Pinkerton as a scowling caricature hate-figure with whom any girl would be mad to get involved. Or rather she does at first — he becomes another person later on. She also thinks she knows better than Puccini: revealing Butterfly's child at the start of the second act kills one of the epic moments in operatic literature; the moment when the child should be revealed is

also killed by placing Butterfly so far upstage in Oleg Cheintsis's dreary decor that she is virtually inaudible.

Playing the marriage and the love duet in the docks of Nagasaki is not a bright idea — it makes nonsense of what people sing, for one thing — nor is giving Butterfly's mother and uncle prominent silent roles in the second part. The tripping movements for the Japanese are out of a bad *Mikado*, and acutely distasteful. A final coup requires, humiliatingly, a visible stagehand to set it up, and I believe displays throughout only a tenuous hold on basic skills of direction.

The Chinese soprano Chen Sue (*Butterfly*) has a brittle, edgy voice too monochrome to sustain interest in so long a dramatic role. Mark Nicolson would do nicely in one of the lighter Gilbert and Sullivan tenor parts: whoever thought he should sing Pinkerton needs their head examined. Peter Savidge (Sharpless) looked embarrassed, as well he might given the company, while Liane Keegan had a go at Suzuki but had no one to play against. Clive Bayley was a good Bonze.

Marco Zambello was the rather ordinary conductor, showing no obvious sympathy for the idiom, and the playing was wooden. It was sad — no, tragic — to witness a company with so fine a record responsible for something that barely attained acceptable professional standards.

RODNEY MILNES

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Legendary diva Leontyne Price will visit London this September to launch The Essential Leontyne Price. The highlight of this rare appearance will be "An Evening with Leontyne Price" at St. John's Smith Square on Tuesday the 24th of September. "An Evening with Leontyne Price" is a celebration of the music and art of one of the all time great prima donnas. The programme will feature interviews interspersed with famous and unreleased extracts from her RCA RED SEAL recordings and unique video footage.

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Timothy Garton Ash says that the EU is the worst possible Europe — apart from all the other Europes tried from time to time

Two cheers for our continent

Europe, for me, is not Brussels or Strasbourg, Euro-institutions, laws or officials, let alone Euro-politicians. Europe, my Europe, is the old marketplace in Craiova, the gilded gloom of the Café Landmann in Vienna, Berlin's Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse on a grey winter's evening, mood Naples and suffocating Athens. It is a mosaic of extraordinarily diverse and interesting places, memories, peoples and individual people: some that I like, some that I dislike but to none of which I am indifferent. Diverse though they are, they are nonetheless all bound up in a single larger history, that of Europe.

Knowing Europe thus, it is impossible to be a Euro-sceptic in the way that, say, *The Sun* or Lord Tebbit are Euro-sceptical. But anyone who cares for the real Europe is bound to be deeply sceptical about what is being done in its name. Even before the end of the Cold War, there was a dangerous gap opening up between the real Europe below and the political-legal-institutional "Europe" being built from above by the bureaucratic implementation of policies negotiated between governments, or demanded by lobbyists for special interests of all kinds, with little or

no democratic control. Since 1989, the problem has worsened as the EU has failed to respond adequately to the largest historical change in Europe since 1945.

Yet we cannot just tear up the EU and begin again. We have to start from where we are. And any structure of institutionalised co-operation or integration in Europe is bound to be complicated and cumbersome, because Europe itself is so complicated and refractory. Out of the crooked timber of Europe, no straight thing was ever made. The EU is the worst possible Europe, apart from all the other Europes which have been tried from time to time. Conservatives may recognise a classic piece of conservative political wisdom.

The advocacy of "Europe" is often associated with an optimistic, idealistic, even naive belief in human progress, through the benign automaticity of interdependence to a harmonious future of "ever-closer union" — itself sometimes assumed to be the realisation of some inner nature or even

Platonic essence of Europe. There is indeed some such naive optimism about, although a good deal less than there was five years ago. My advocacy, however, starts from a diametrically opposed and deeply pessimistic premise. I assume that this progress is neither automatic nor irreversible, and that Europe could easily revert to its bad old ways of ceaseless and ultimately violent conflict between nations. But why say "could"? In the former Yugoslavia, it already has.

Now it is plainly wrong to argue that the European Union has, in itself, "kept the peace in Europe". Inasmuch as the peace was kept in Western Europe until 1989, this was in the first place because of Nato and the Cold War stand-off between the nuclear-armed blocs. However, it has certainly helped. The EU has been both symbol and catalyst of reconciliation between former enemies in Western Europe. Even in the painful case of policy towards former Yugoslavia, the still feeble post-Maastricht arrangements for co-operation in

foreign and security policy and, more importantly, the associated reality of intensive, habitual bilateral contacts did eventually contribute to a less disunited, if not a more effective Western policy. The EU is, and will almost certainly remain, less than a real union. But it is significantly more than just a United Nations for Europe.

Today, a good third of the continent has, at best, very fragile democracies in unstable states. And it is precisely to "Europe" — to the prospect of membership of the EU (and of Nato) — that these new states look as one of the crucial ways to stabilise and strengthen their democracies, just as Spain, Portugal, and Greece did in the 1970s and 1980s.

It may be a paradox that they look to something largely undemocratic (the EU) to strengthen their own democracies, but life is paradoxical. And the alternative in this part of the world, in Central and Eastern Europe, is the failure of

democracy, ethnic conflict and war. In a word: Yugoslavia.

This way of thinking about Europe is unusual in Britain, but it is far from un-British. In fact it draws on a much older tradition of British thinking about Europe, one that looks at the continent and our relationship to it not primarily in terms of European unity, as in the continental idealistic tradition, but in terms of order. In my view, the vital attribute of the EU — more than its (disputed) economic advantages — is that it offers a framework of non-hegemonic order. And because this framework is non-hegemonic and is built, albeit undemocratically, between democracies, it is better, and has a better chance of lasting, than previous attempts to build European orders.

So much for the principles. What does this mean in practice? I have argued elsewhere that we should be proposing a second project for the EU. This would consist of serious, detailed proposals both for rapid eastward enlargement and for a more closely co-ordinated foreign

and security policy, to equip us to deal better with powers and crises mainly to the east and south of the EU — starting with Bosnia, which is very far from "solved".

The devil is, of course, in the detail — and in anything to do with the EU, the detail is particularly devilish. However, that is not the main problem. The problem is political, and twofold. First, there is already another major project under way: that of monetary union. Secondly, in the present climate, anything that Britain suggests will be looked upon with suspicion. In particular, proposals for enlargement, combined with scepticism about monetary union, will be seen as designs to dilute the Community by enlargement — perfidious Albion trying to sabotage the European enterprise again.

So if we were enthusiastic supporters of the first project, monetary union, and of the accompanying so-called "political union", it would be so much easier, politically, to win support elsewhere in Europe for the second one. But that,

in turn, would be easier if the case for monetary union were more compelling. I personally think the doubts about monetary union are so substantial and well-founded that the Government's position of wait-and-see, while quietly attempting to meet the criteria, is reasonable.

What we cannot reasonably do is to steer a course against a project in which many of our continental partners have invested vast capital — political, economic and emotional — then expect them to listen sympathetically while we explain what Europe should really be doing instead.

Here is our dilemma. I am not sure that there is any good way out of it. But I am sure that the best way to try is indicated in the title of the Centre for European Reform. Reform — not critical support, not withdrawal, but reform. European both in the sense that we need proposals for the reform of the EU, and in the sense that the proposals should come from a wider range of Europeans, and not just from British Europeans. For we shall get nowhere on our own.

This is an edited contribution to a pamphlet published to mark this week's launch of the Centre for European Reform.

Maxwell: it'll happen again

The law, not the SFO, was to blame, says Bronwen Maddox

The sight of a beaming Kevin Maxwell on the steps of the High Court has been a provocation too great for many to resist. Mr Justice Buckley's direction to drop further criminal charges against Robert Maxwell's youngest son has triggered declarations that the entire system of British justice has failed.

The passionate public desire for convictions in the Maxwell affair was understandable. When the publisher's empire collapsed five years ago, it left £4 billion in debts, including a £400 million hole in its pension funds. Although Robert Maxwell towered over his sprawling conglomerate of about 100 businesses, he did not run them alone: an inner circle of favoured employees — and family — was intimately involved.

However, attacks on the Serious Fraud Office and the use of juries in fraud trials are misdirected. They emerge with credit from the Maxwell trial. Criticism would be better focused on the judiciary, apparently uncertain in its approach to fraud cases, on international banks and on financial legislation itself.

For the SFO, the dismissal of charges against Kevin Maxwell could not have been more publicly damaging. It followed not only his acquittal in a first trial, but also the failure of high-profile financial fraud trials in the 1980s.

Yet in the Maxwell case, the SFO had clearly learnt from those fiascos. It brought in squads of first-rate accountants from the start. It briskly distilled stacks of documents and identified the main players and allegations. Unlike the 1980s trials, it faced one overwhelming obstacle: the absence of the main protagonists.

In retrospect the SFO was hampered by the manner in which Mr Alan Suckling, QC, presented the case. His delivery often seemed diffident. Despite that, the SFO decision to bring a second set of charges was entirely justifiable. It has a duty to do so if it believes a case exists.

Similarly, the Maxwell jury's performance is more impressive than popularly supposed. Members were picked for their lack of preconceptions about Robert Maxwell; in effect, some say, that produced a financially unsophisticated jury. But the fact that it delivered an acquittal does not mean that members did not under-

stand the issues. The principles involved were simpler than in 1980s trials which concerned the niceties of stock market trading.

Prosecution and jury aside, however, there is plenty of room for concern about the handling of the Maxwell case. For fear of prejudicing the second criminal trial, the judgment in a 1993 civil case which covered much of the same ground could not be reported until yesterday, but it was strongly critical of Kevin Maxwell. Some argue — although few of them are criminal lawyers — that this perhaps should have been relevant to Mr Justice Buckley's decision to halt a second trial.

Judges also insisted that the prosecution select only a few charges for the first trial. That was a departure from the practice of the 1980s, designed to lighten the burden on the jury. This may have weakened the prosecution, which wanted to establish that Maxwell directors were aware of the true state of the group's finances, or acted in breach of their duties. Those arguments are easier to make by pointing to a long-standing pattern of behaviour. It is unclear whether this approach should be followed in the future.

It is also easy to forget that so much money could not have gone astray without the participation of some of the world's best-known banks. Their defence was that they were unaware of the full picture. It is hard not to ask what they thought they were doing.

Finally, there is the law itself. The exact scope of directors' responsibilities and the role of pension trustees has only partly been clarified. The unresolved question of whether the surplus in a company pension fund belongs to the company or to employees will become a political headache.

In one respect, the legacy of Robert Maxwell is better than feared: most of the missing pension funds have been retrieved, and pensions continue to be paid. The pensioners say they are outraged that Kevin Maxwell walks free, but they are not suffering financially.

However, five years after one of Britain's greatest financial scandals, financial regulation remains imprecise and the ability of the courts to tackle these cases remains unclear. Too little has yet been done to prevent a repeat of the affair.

Debates between Major and Blair are dull — but what if they took a leaf out of Montaigne?

Conversing with the nation

La Commedia è cominciata. This week the two party leaders sang their campaign overtures at separate London rallies. John Major performed at the Spectator lecture, Tony Blair at the Times/Dillons forum. They tested the acoustics and trilled their arpeggios. Both seemed fit and in good voice. They had better be. Six gruelling months lie ahead — heaven help us.

Montaigne's most famous essay distinguished the art of conversation from that of debate. The latter, he said, was for experts. Debate demanded a polarised argument. Those untutored in dialectic might not move from thesis and antithesis towards synthesis, but shoot off to ever greater misunderstanding, even to war. Debate was artificial. Conversation was a natural quest after truth. It welcomed disagreement but did not exaggerate it. "I embrace the man who contradicts me," wrote Montaigne, "for he instructs me... I rejoice in sharp exchanges, as love rejoices in the bites and scratches that draw blood." Conversation was a mirror of humanity. Debate was a dangerous intellectual game, prohibited by Plato to the "ill-endowed mind".

Watching Mr Blair and Mr Major perform this week, I dread the forthcoming debate but long for conversation. They are ill-suited as opponents. Both are pleasant, honest herbivores. There is nothing discordant in their political upbringing, no blood on their hands, no bile in their souls. They lack the gravitas of age but pass the prospective son-in-law test.

As debaters, neither man diverges from the political mainstream. Mr Major because he cannot. Mr Blair because he dare not. They do not differ fundamentally about economy or foreign policy, about tax or public spending, utility regulation, health, education or local government. If Mr Blair is a decentraliser, he has yet to show what he means by it (except in Scotland). Neither leader dares to seem more or less European than the other. They are rotten characters for an electoral spaghetti western: two men trying to step on each other's shadow and then crying "ouch".

What passed for a debate this past week was a charade: what is moral about the size of the public sector? As Mr Major introduced the topic on Wednesday, he at least won gasps for effrontery. He lectured a *Spectator* audience against bigger government and higher taxes. That is how they are sup-



John Major, Montaigne and Tony Blair: the French philosopher said that debate was for experts but conversation for all mankind

posed to lecture him. His Government seizes more of the nation's earnings (43 per cent) than when he was Baroness Thatcher's Chancellor (39 per cent) and much the same as when Labour was in power in 1979 (44 per cent). That very day, his Government was nationalising teacher training in England and Wales and forbidding universities the freedom to raise their own fees. Had the entire Tory era been an exercise in immorality? Mr Major's spin-doctor, David Willets, explained that this was all to do with economic cycles. This somewhat diluted the moral crusade. The pot may have good reasons for being black, but should surely avoid calling blackness immoral.

When asked for a view, the kettle could not resist. Mr Blair leapt into the kitchen. If big government is immoral, he said, who should now be "donning the sackcloth and ashes"? Morality lay not in the size of government but in its priorities. On that subject, of course, Mr Blair would not be drawn. Mr Blair is not to be drawn on any subject. But he won the debating point.

The exchange augurs ill for the next six months. There is really no argument between these men that can stand the strain of artificial polarisation. They are politically alike, almost interchangeable. In another age Mr Major, the non-graduate, self-made son of south London, would be a surefire Labour leader. Mr Blair, the straight-talking Oxonian barrister, would

be a surefire Conservative one. Such are the vagaries of Westminster politics. Yet the requirements of an election campaign will see them wrenched apart, their trivial disagreements puffed up, their personalities and their spouses caricatured and degraded. Plato was right. Debate is dangerous in the wrong hands.

Yet they could have a splendid conversation. Conversation is one of Mr Major's skills, however much his ministers are averse to letting him display it. The more

Simon Jenkins

intimate the setting, the more natural he seems. The more unscripted his remarks, the more convincing they sound. Televised informally on the Downing Street pavement, he almost persuaded me earlier this month that America was right to bomb Iraq. Most men are bigger on a platform than at close quarters. Mr Major seems to shrink on the public stage. The clichés that are the bane of his speeches fall leaden from his lips.

Mr Blair is a good public speaker, but he too is better at

conversation. Had Mr Major's spin-doctors been present, on Thursday, they would have seen a model "conversation" with an audience. Mr Blair spent 90 minutes informally responding to questions. He told me nothing new about Labour policy. Scripted, it would have been mostly waffle. But Mr Blair is now a supreme political performer: "formidable" was what Matthew Parris's review said yesterday. He can read an audience and convey a sense of command. Even as he tired — and began what might have been a Neil Kinnock parody — he never lost his listeners. Mr Major should try the same.

Had the two leaders been in conversation rather than detached debate, the week might have added at least something to the sum total of human wisdom. Conversation is the art of the supplementary question. Come on Mr Blair, Mr Major would say, you would "transform" education, health, transport, social security. I have been struggling with this one for six years — and failed. So what is new? How will you avoid thrashing about like Margaret Thatcher in 1979-81 and then being strangled, tied and hung by the Treasury? Tell us the secret and I might tell you some, too.

Mr Blair would have his turn. You, Mr Major, cannot honestly offer a smaller state or lower taxes than now, or at least none that your party or the country would tolerate. There is no light between us on this and no purchase in deceiving the

public. You are addicted to big government and cannot kick the habit — any more than you say I can. Yet we are both seeking a better way of allocating public money. We both want to curb the growth of social security spending. You have failed. Tell me why, so we can all be less frightened of tough decisions.

In my dreams I see them converse, and cannot see what hurt it would do them by doing so in public. Yet two years ago, both leaders agreed that the "debating" mode of Prime Minister's Questions was farcical and must be changed to a more conversational one. Both men requested of the other a new format. Nothing was achieved. The saga showed neither man in a flattering light. It is as if both were frightened of conversation, as if the whole political community were frightened. Debate is easy. Polarisation is the soft option.

The sage of Bordeaux overheard an argument between two shepherds in the marketplace. He was astonished at how clear was their conversation. They knew no dialectic or rhetoric. They did not exaggerate or diverge from the point. They settled their difference and went their ways. "There is more sense in the cackle of fishwives," concluded Montaigne, "than in the public debates of men who profess logic." So God save the art of conversation, and bring it to our rescue.

Greene goddess

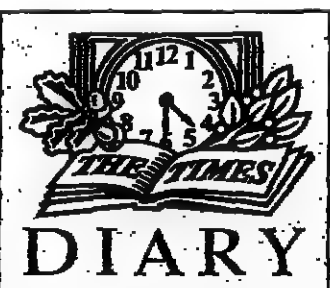
FRANK details of the passionate affair between Graham Greene and Catherine Walston, his beautiful lover for 15 years, are to be published for the first time. Catherine's son Oliver, a farmer and journalist, has been commissioned by the publishers Michael Joseph to write the story.

Catherine was married to Harry, later Lord Walston. But in the 1940s she asked Greene to be her godfather when she joined the Roman Catholic Church — his

novels, she explained, had helped to bring her into the fold.

She was immensely rich and sexually uninhibited. Soon she and Greene were lovers. Harry Walston had little option but to let Greene form part of this unusual ménage à trois: Catherine had made it plain to Harry that if he wanted to keep her, Greene must remain part of her life.

The book is basically a voyage of discovery to find out how my parents' marriage survived this



curious arrangement," says Oliver, who spent holidays with his mother and Greene on Capri between the ages of six and 16. "They were married in a strange relationship which most people would have found impossible."

Oliver will draw on unpublished archive material and Greene's copious love letters. "For four or five years, they kept a double diary. Each would write on facing pages. Each also kept a diary of their dreams."

Norma Major may be about to make her name as an author with her book on *Chequers*, the Prime Minister's country residence. But her endeavours will not have been helped by John Major's attitude towards the house: he has been telling friends he doesn't like the place — far too formal, he says, a

far cry from his cosy modern house in Huntingdon.

Little Brits

THE SIX Tory grandees who wrote advising John Major this week not to suffer the party's virulent Europhobes ended their letter in buccaneering fashion. "The British instinct is to lead, not walk away," trumpeted Sir Edward Heath *et al.* "Our greatest patriots have never been little Englishmen."

A chorus of protest from offended Euro-sceptics ensued. "No little Englishmen we," cried John Redwood and his far-right cronies. "True patriots all."

Curiously, Redwood once lived in a house called Little England. "About five years ago, he moved into a house called White Walls in Sunning-on-Thames," explains my source. "He promptly changed the name to Little England." Redwood's office confirmed the tale yesterday, explaining: "It was meant as a joke. Heath is not noted for his humour on these matters, and I doubt very much if he will see the funny side."

Lord Longford has been at his campaigning best in recent days. He invited Ann Widdecombe and Baroness Blatch, both Home Of-

fice ministers to lunch. He tried to convert Widdecombe to the cause of Myra Hindley and Baroness Blatch to Catholicism. So far, however he has failed on both counts.

Beam me up

TALK at London's literary parties this week has concerned Ed Victor, doyen of literary agents and *habitué* of The Hamptons, a celebrity playground in Long Island, New York State. A tall man, his stiff gait



"He's definitely got his father's looks"

as he stalked through the crowds of Joan Collins's book launch in a neck-brace lent him the appearance of an arthritic giraffe. At Bloomsbury's 10th anniversary party the following night, he was similarly uncombed.

Victor's home in The Hamptons is an old English barn which he had shipped over there to be reassembled, beams and all. Sadly, the house has one beam too many — for the poor man recently walked straight into one of them and damaged his neck.

Veracity is proving the hallmark of Ewan McGregor, who played a heroin-addicted youth in *Trainspotting*. McGregor has been signed up to play James Joyce in the film *Nora* (a working title, *thankfully*), which tells of Joyce's love affair with Nora Barnacle. Filming is to start in Dublin next year.

Look, See

AS ROMAN Catholics fret about celibacy, monsignori at the Vatican are lamenting the departure of an engaging figure who once brightened their lives in the Holy See.

Catherine Fairweather, daughter of our former Ambassador to Rome



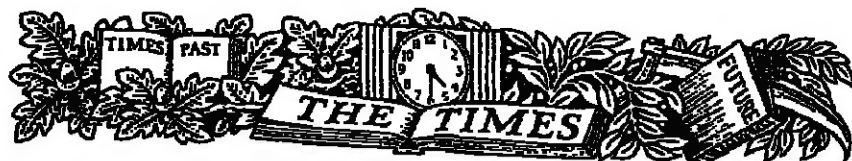
Catherine dressing up

Sir Patrick Fairweather, was a presenter on Vatican Radio but, heart-breakingly, she has returned to England.

Catherine was one of the few non-Catholics working in the Vatican. But so attached to her did the priests become that they made a special presentation to her as a leaving present. A racy white dress, split to the hips. "It's the sexiest item of clothing in my wardrobe," she says.

P.H.S

مكتبة من الأصل



THE WORLD TO ROME

The Pope has brought Rome to the world: next the reverse

The shifting story of Roderick Wright from tragedy to scandal is just one small part of the fundamental agenda facing the Roman Catholic Church. Other, larger parts are represented in the Pope's troubled visit to France where he has been greeted by arguments ranging from the status of the 5th-century convert King Clovis to 20th-century details of social policy.

Yet the French agenda too forms an incomplete portrait of the challenges facing Catholicism. While the level of devotion has clearly slumped in its heartlands of Europe and North America, there have been striking advances in the developing world. As a global force the language of crisis is inappropriate. The vocabulary of change, however, is not.

The central problem is for a hierarchy and structure that are tightly based upon Rome and highly centralised in nature. The Church is searching for means of devolution and forms by which it can adapt traditional practices to suit the cultures where Rome's strength now lies. Of necessity this suggests a much less authoritarian style; but any new style will have to coexist with the primacy of the pontiff.

It is the Third World that is the true driving force behind the celibacy dilemma. The demand for Catholicism far outstrips the supply of priests in many parts of the planet, leaving massive congregations with no real leadership. Inevitably the issue of what can be done to combat this is raised: how much of the problem comes from the requirement of chastity? This touches on wider terrain. The Second Vatican Council sought to promote a more active role for the laity while at the same time leaving the traditional position of the priest intact. Thirty years on, that essential concept has not taken full root.

To this is added the question of liturgy. Many practitioners believe that the mystery and beauty of language once so closely

associated with the Mass has been badly compromised in the aftermath of Vatican II. Some hanker after the full restoration of the Latin rites. Others argue that the shift was correct in principle but imperfect in execution. Recent attempts at the revision of liturgy has not produced full consensus. What is required is flexibility. But, like decentralisation in formal structure, that does not come naturally to a faith based on unity, uniformity and universality. For much of the past 2000 years these elements have been a source of great strength. Without adaptation they may not be so in the future.

Then come the divisive moral matters. In France, as elsewhere, there is a long list of modernity's by-products: legal abortion and divorce, easy birth control, homosexual rights and equality for women, all with vocal proselytisers. Some of these issues, including the sanctity of human life stand central to the very purpose of the credo. The form of permissible family planning is less linked to core ethical principle. The barrage of criticism that the Pope endures comes as much from his seeming reluctance to accept, let alone encourage, discussion of any of them, as from his personal philosophy. Again, at present, debate does not flow as comfortably as it might.

Through his relentless willingness to travel John Paul II has accentuated the presence of the new church membership; but the influence of that membership will have to be addressed by his successor. The present Pope has appointed virtually all of the College of Cardinals that will make the succession choice. With each day of his advancing age, the prospects of the 69-year-old Cardinal Carlo Martini, Archbishop of Milan and favourite of many reformers, slightly worsen. Despite that, the need for change, and its sophisticated management, is unavoidable. John Paul II has brought Rome to the world. The next Pope will have to bring the world to Rome.

FRIENDS IN TRANSYLVANIA

Where alliances are not what they may seem

Ever since the turbulent days of Vlad the Impaler, Transylvania has been a synonym for a Balkan backwater where midnight murders are hushed up by a cowed peasantry. Six years ago these murders took place in full daylight on a scale that began a revolution. The uprising in Timisoara by the oppressed Hungarian minority was the catalyst for Romania's general uprising against the Ceausescu dictatorship. History has left millions of Hungarians outside Hungary's present borders. Two million of them live uncomfortably in north-western Romania seeking greater autonomy for schools, local authorities and in the use of Hungarian. But hopes that Ceausescu's death would lead to an improvement in living conditions and human rights were premature: the fall of communism unleashed suppressed ethnic animosity that led, months later, to anti-Hungarian riots and nationalist violence.

The signing, therefore, of a treaty between the two countries this week guaranteeing full minority rights for the Hungarians, the inviolability of borders and close co-operation between Budapest and Bucharest, seems a welcome piece of news. For Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Prime Minister, there was a particular satisfaction: eight years ago, as Foreign Minister, he tried vainly to persuade Ceausescu to curb the wave of arrests among the Hungarian minority, stop the demolition of monuments and restore access to higher education.

Trade and political relations between the two countries have been improving in recent years, but each Government has a particular need now to show success in dealing with the other. Budapest has been accused of giving aid and encouragement to secessionist groups in both Slovakia and Romania during the past few months by sending government officials into both to endorse autonomy claims by ethnic Hungarians. Mr

Horn needed quickly to smooth the inevitable waves this caused. The Romanians, for their part, have a presidential election in November, and the Government does not want to give its opponents any pretext for nationalist agitation.

Beyond this, however, there is a more important factor operating in both countries: the prospect of Nato membership. Neither can afford a grumbling quarrel with its neighbour if its application is to be credible; each believes it can strengthen its case by promising to uphold the application of the other — as, indeed, the treaty spells out. It would be tempting, therefore, to see the prospect of membership in both Nato and the European Union as two goals for former communist countries that will be more effective in persuading governments to tackle underlying ethnic tensions. Such incentives should be more effective than any human rights declarations or resolutions.

This hope may be a chimera. Romania is still suspicious of Hungarian intentions, both military and political. Romanians are convinced, correctly, that Hungary is likely to be among the first wave of new Nato members, whereas they will not be taken in for years, if at all. The Romanians fear this would give Hungary, with access to Nato's superior technology, a qualitative military edge, as well as the political backing of fellow Nato members should relations degenerate again. The Hungarian minority might then become a Nato "fifth column". Romania also fears that whatever the new treaty pledges, Hungarians will be tempted to use the threat of a veto of Romanian membership to extract new concessions for its minority across the border. With Nato membership likely to set up new divisions in Eastern Europe, the prospects for such treaties ending regional quarrels over minorities are not, unfortunately, as bright as might be hoped.

WHEELIE RADICAL

The Liberals are the stunt riders of politics

The Liberal Democrats have launched a consultative paper hailing the virtues of the motorbike as an alternative to the car. It is an inspired move. A party that seemed in danger of riding the unicycle of irrelevance into the gutter of inconsequence has found a vehicle to appeal to the adventurous, one that might even overtake the lumbering juggernauts of Right and Left.

The motorbike is a quintessential Liberal machine. It is small, it changes direction quickly when it meets obstacles, it loses its sense of balance unless there's a strong hand at the controls and the number of impressive British models has been declining steadily since the Thirties. Although in David Lloyd George they had the archetypal Easy Rider, there has always been more of the air of the TT races than the Hell's Angels.

There have been almost as many false dawns for the British motorcycle industry since the war as there have been abortive Liberal revivals. In both cases mergers did nothing to improve the basic product.

Undoubtedly, the lowest moment for the indigenous motorcycle industry was the establishment of the Meriden Co-operative, an idealistic exercise in avoiding harsh market realities which recalls, in its prelapsarian innocence and faith in human

goodness, the Liberal Democrats' current tax proposals.

The new Liberal Democrat enthusiasm for the motorbike is fuelled by an impeccably unleaded concern for the environment. The smaller engines of these machines belch fewer noxious molecules into the air than the average motor car, or come to that, politician. Also, because the motorbike — like the Liberal Democrats' turbo-powered leader Paddy Ashdown — is all engine and no chassis, it takes up less space when parked and frees land for more fruitful use.

Any contemplation of the Liberal Democrats' future cannot ignore the talk among the Westminster grease monkeys about a merger between sleek new Labour and Paddy's party. Although inevitably junior partners, the Liberal Democrats deserve better than to be relegated to the sidetrack beside Tony's Triumph.

The third party has shown a fine willingness to adopt positions which other politicians, more narrowly interested in ephemera such as winning elections, have been too cowardly to consider. Such bravery deserves respect. The Liberal Democrats are the Evel Knievels of British politics, and they deserve as much credit as any stunt rider who makes leaps in the dark.

Learning from the Maxwell case

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, The humane decision of Mr Justice Buckley to stop a further long trial in the Maxwell case (reports and leading article, September 20) is to be applauded, and should not cause the heavens to fall. It should not have any effect on the mode of trial of fraud cases. No man should be required to undergo the strain of a further long trial after a previous trial lasting six months or more, especially where that hearing had dealt with the most serious allegations of criminality in the case.

The decision of the Serious Fraud Office to seek to pursue a second trial after the acquittal in the first, very long, trial contrasts with its commendable conduct in the rather shorter Barlow Clowes case (reports, February 11, 1992).

There the indictment had also been severed and the more serious charges (involving theft of investors' funds) were tried over some 112 days.

At the conclusion of that trial, with the conviction of two defendants and the acquittal of two others, the prosecution immediately dropped the charges (principally involving allegations of "share ramping") that would have formed the subject of a second, long, trial against them although (as in the Maxwell case) other defendants who had not been in the first case were also to have stood trial.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
Littleton Building,
3 King's Bench Walk North,
Temple, EC4A
September 20.

From Mr Jonathan Goldberg, QC

Sir, I am not ashamed to admit that I am usually baffled by the detail, the complexity and the sheer weight of reading material with which I am confronted when I set out to defend in serious fraud trials, as I not infrequently do. I therefore readily try to grapple with the same material. Moreover, I am paid to read it and re-read it months before the trial by way of preparation, whereas they come to it cold.

Fortunately for me, I am invariably assisted through the minefield by an expert witness, normally an accountant, with whom I can consult so that difficult financial concepts can be explained to me in simple terms and, hopefully through me, to the eventual jury.

Often the real issue at the heart of the fraud turns out to be relatively simple, and one which a lay jury is well equipped to decide. The problem in these cases is seeing the wood for the trees.

Surely the answer would lie in a compromise which in part exists already in continental trial systems. A professional assessor from a highly qualified panel, such as an accountant, stockbroker or banker, depending on the nature of the fraud alleged, should sit as the twelfth juror. He would have the same rights in all respects as the remaining 11 jurors, but would be well able to guide them through the technicalities in the way my expert guides me.

There is no real danger of their attaching too much weight to his views because at the end of the day they can overrule him if they wish. Under our existing system of majority verdicts in criminal trials ten of the 12 will produce the verdict either way.

In this way we will not throw the baby out with the bathwater, as those who seek to abolish juries in such cases would do.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN J. GOLDBERG,
3 Temple Gardens, Temple, EC4A
September 20.

Ashdown on Brussels

From Mr Michael Kirkbride

Sir, Paddy Ashdown identifies two internal threats to the European Union ("Brussels: too bossy for its own good", September 17): the "little nation-states" and the "big nation-states". He also proposes four objectives for setting the Union "on a new track": the simplification of existing treaties, a stronger European Court of Justice, putting a stop to "creeping EU legislation" and the introduction of a right of secession for discomfited member states.

All this is excellent, and I write as a committed European; but one would have liked to hear a little more of how these objectives can be achieved.

It seems to me that the Union is in a bind: there is an urgent need for constitutional reform, but within the institutions of Europe there is little or no motivation to undertake it; the over-riding authority of the Council of Ministers needs to be broken, along with the entrenched power of the Commission to meddle and to manipulate; and the powers of the European Parliament over them both should be extended and its relationship with the national parliaments redefined.

But can one imagine Mr Santer, Chancellor Kohl, President Chirac, and Prime Minister Major giving up power? Or Mr Blair, for that matter? I should like to know from Mr Ashdown how he thinks this circle can be broken.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KIRKBRIDE,
Orchard Cottage,
Knole, Langport, Somerset.
September 18.

Value of volunteering in a 'gap year'

From Mr Andrew Rowe, MP for Mid Kent (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader of September 17 on the gap year raised a matter of policy which deserves more attention than it gets: the place of voluntary service in the development of young people.

National military service has been credited with instilling a sense of discipline and responsibility in the young people who went through it. Whether that was true or not, the system cannot be reintroduced in the late 1990s. On the other hand, there is a mass of evidence that young people who have had the opportunity to serve others in a voluntary capacity emerge from the experience greatly enriched.

Home Office research has shown that being given responsibility for someone less fortunate than themselves is one of the most effective ways of diverting young offenders from a life of crime.

The experience of community service volunteers over the past 34 years has demonstrated again and again that young people with very little self-esteem can be turned into self-confident, responsible adults by properly supervised and supported voluntary work on behalf of others.

On June 6, 1995, when launching the "Make a Difference" initiative, the Home Secretary acknowledged this by promising that every young person who wanted to do so would be given a chance to volunteer.

Unfortunately, this pledge has so far been implemented only minimally and the initiative, which has so much potential, has made disappointingly slow progress.

What is needed is a national programme to enable young people, whether students or not, to serve as volunteers in properly structured projects and thus grow up realising that service to others develops all sorts of qualities which will stand them and the nation in good stead all through their lives.

Such a programme will only succeed if government at national and local level, employers, educational institutions and parents see it as valuable and build it into their expectations. It is about time that the widespread

demand for such a national initiative became a priority in government policy.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROWE,
House of Commons,
September 17.

From the Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers

Sir, Through Community Service Volunteers (CSV) thousands of young people already spend their gap year "putting into practice their commitment to the environment or concern for the aged" in the UK.

Today more than 3,000 young people, many in their gap year, invest up to 12 months to volunteer to help people in need, and our "citizen service" demonstration projects in Southwark, Sunderland and Cardiff are proving both that young people are willing to give their time and that there is work for them to do.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH HOODLESS,
Executive Director, CSV,
237 Penonville Road, N1,
September 17.

From the Chief Executive of Raleigh International

Sir, I could not agree more with the sentiments echoed in your editorial. A gap year can be good or bad. Failing to use the time well will do little to enhance the chance of a place at university; but a well planned gap year may be looked upon favourably.

However, I was concerned to read a young woman's impressions of Raleigh International (Features, "I won't skin rabbits", September 17). Over the past 12 years 12,000 young people have taken the opportunity, through Raleigh, to work in remote and challenging locations of the world on projects of lasting benefit, developing their team work and other life skills. We don't ask them to skin rabbits.

Yours sincerely,
JAMIE ROBERTSON-MACLEOD,
Chief Executive,
Raleigh International,
Raleigh House,
27 Parsons Green Lane, SW6.

Surgeons' standards

From the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Sir, Dr Switford ("Surgeons opt for European union", Medical briefing, September 18) is right to say that British surgeons, although now specialising in a narrower field, are, by their earlier core training, also in a sense generalists — a fact recognised traditionally by the diploma FRCS.

In future surgeons will become Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons only after, rather than before, a long period of specialist training and subsequent success in an examination conducted jointly with our sister colleges in Scotland and Ireland.

It is true that minimum standards have now been agreed across the European Union. Generally, though, training is longer in this country and second to none. Its content has not

been compromised by any European Directive.

Of course, there will now be competition for consultant posts from those trained abroad to the basic standard required by EU agreement. I am not worried by our acceptance of these baseline continental standards for I share with potential patients the reassurance that every appointments committee will include an assessor from the Royal College of Surgeons.

In no field do minimum standards necessarily equate with appointment. Open and fair competition for prized consultant appointments are the ultimate safeguard.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SWEETNAM,
President,
The Royal College of Surgeons of England,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
September 19.

Quality of Radio 3

From Mr Jean-Norman Benedetti

Sir, Perhaps Radio 3 might stand a better chance of survival (article, Arts, September 18) if it were to question the assumption that it is "the envy of the world".

Having spent most of the summer in the Dordogne I was able to benefit from France Musique and France Culture, both of which broadcast 24 hours a day. At their best, they seemed to me to achieve the standard of the old Third Programme, in a way that Radio 3 no longer does.

There is a coverage of literature, history, theatre and philosophy not to be found here. Programmes are presented in clear, literate French and broadcasters are allowed to speak in the language, however complex, that is appropriate to their subject.

No easy answers

From Mrs Anne Baring

Sir, Science sometimes appears to be so limited in its understanding of human needs, so dogmatic in its statements about the nature of reality and so contemptuous of the non-rational that it inevitably polarises society into two camps: those who accept the mechanistic paradigm science offers and those who do not (British Association report, September 11; see also letter, September 18).

The fascination with the paranormal can perhaps be understood as an instinctive attraction to the mystery of life and a longing to explore whatever science has dismissed as not worthy of exploration.

The belief often promoted by science that life can be manipulated and controlled for human advantage is an attitude that many people find arrogant and repellent, not to say immature.

They feel closer, perhaps, to J. B. S. Haldane's suspicion "that the universe is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we can suppose".

Yours faithfully,
ANNE BARING,
White Lodge, Grange Park,
Alresford, Hampshire.
September 19.

Primogeniture

From Mr Alan Clark

Sir, Lord St John of Fawley is reported in today's paper (early editions) as saying that a change in the law of primogeniture "should" be applied to "the land-owning classes" before being applied to the Crown.

Aside from its peremptory tone, this judgment offers problems of definition. Why not include artists? What about bankers, or garagistes? John Maynard Keynes, like Lord St John unmarried but certainly of equal eminence, dismissed the concept of long-term planning with his notorious aphorism "... in the long run we are all dead".

Some of your readers may feel that opinions — still more, legislation — would carry greater weight when coming from those with descendants of their own.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CLARK,
Saltwood Castle, Kent.
September 17.

Weekend Money letters, page 40

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-752-5046.

To think, or just to seem to think?

From Professor J. Aleksander, FEng

Sir, Before Matthew Parris retires to feed his ducks (article, September 16) he should accept some congratulations for having put his finger on the conundrum about conscious machines — we cannot prove that machines are conscious, but then we realise that the consciousness of our best friends cannot be proved either. This is very depressing.

The reason I dare to work on consciousness in artificial organisms is because I am interested not in whether a machine might seem conscious to a casual observer (which is just the tip of the iceberg), but what manner of machinery might be convincing.

Parris's program for getting machines to say "I" regularly and causing them to pause while they think is not quite the kind of thing I am looking for. They will only be convincing if they are not programmed but are constructed in a way that allows them to build up a real sense of "identity".

People are all made in pretty much the same way. Animals too are not all that different — the neurons and hormones and neurotransmitters and microtubules are all there perhaps in slightly different mixtures. We, as yet, do not know how it all gets to make consciousness.

It is important that we should know, if only because distortions of consciousness are of major medical concern. But that's where machines come in — they help us to find out. Machines are there to test hypotheses and support experiments which could not be done on living creatures.

The excitement comes not from the ambition to be the next Dr Frankenstein, but from the discovery of principles which machines and living organisms might share.

In fact the person who unveils the first conscious machine might be greeted by a pronounced scientific yawn.

Yours sincerely,
IGOR ALEKSANDER
(Professor of Neural Systems Engineering),
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine,
Department of Electrical Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7,
September 16.

Art of oratory

From Mr Peter Cadogan

Sir, Peter Riddell tells us ("The old orators are still the best", September 14), that "Gladstone managed [to speak for two or three hours] with minimal preparation".

Up to a point. Gladstone was probably the only political leader to have designed a purpose-built oratorical tower in which to rehearse his speeches, which he had specially built onto his study in Hawarden Castle. It contains a spiral iron staircase leading to an iron platform from which he could thunder to his heart's content. The study and the tower have been kept exactly as he left them.

Yours truly,
PETER CADOGAN,
3 Hinchinbrook House,
Greville Road, NW6,
September 15.

Perils of horse power

From Dr Frederick O'Dwyer

Sir, In addressing the correlation between road fatalities and the advent of the motor car, Mr Angus Duncan (letter, September 12; see also letter, September 6) quite reasonably questions the proposition that horse transport was safer "per journey mile".

Indeed, it would seem that the age of horse power encompassed a whole range of perils, including that supposedly modern phenomenon, "road rage".

The *Calendar of the State Papers Relating to Ireland* (published in 1908) reproduces a report sent from Dublin in 1667 of a particularly extreme example concerning a dispute about "presidency" or precedence.

For the Earl of Clancarty being in his coach, accompanying the funeral of Sir Thomas Harman, who commanded the Horse Guard lately, was met in a crowded street by the Earl of Roscommon in his coach, who, as eldest Earl, endeavouring to take place and being resisted by the Earl of Clancarty's footmen and coachmen, who could not possibly remove their coach out of the way at that time, came out of his coach in great heat and, falling amongst the footmen, wounded two or three of the Earl of Clancarty's footmen and killed one of his coachmen.

Yours sincerely,
F. M. O'DWYER,
12 Glendower Close,
Rathfarnham, Dublin.
September 17.

From Miss Catherine Lambert

Sir, W. Outram Tristram, in *Coaching Days and Coaching Ways* (1901), his book on 18th-century travel, tells us that although wheels came off and axles broke with depressing regularity there were few records of fatal accidents.

He also quotes the coffee-house gentleman of a slightly later period who remarked: "You are thrown out of a coach and there you are, but if you are thrown out of a railway carriage where are you?"

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE LAMBERT,
118 Clapham Road, SW9,
September 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 20: The Princess Royal this morning opened a new Mobile Bibleworld during the Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow, and received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, Visitor, later visited Strathclyde Hospice, Randolph Hill, Dumfries, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Strathclyde and Falkirk (Colonel James Stirling of Gordon).

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the new office of Matthew Gilling and Son Limited, West Kinfauns, Perth, and was

received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross (Sir David Montgomery, Bt).

YORK HOUSE
September 20: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning visited the Looe Lifeboat Station, Seaford Shores, West End, East Looe, Cornwall.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Plymouth Lifeboat Station, Custom House, Custom House Lane, Plymouth, and the Esmouh Lifeboat House, Esplanade, Esmouh, Devon.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a B Division, Staff College Camberley 1966 reunion dinner at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Royal engagement

TODAY:
The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic, will attend a benefit concert at Glyndebourne, East Sussex, at 4.15.

Marketers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Marketers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr D.G. Thomas; Senior Warden, Mr R.A. Hood; Middle Warden, Mr J. Petersen; Junior Warden, Professor J.A.P. Treasurer.

Lady Cullen of Ashbourne

A service of thanksgiving for Lady Cullen of Ashbourne will be held at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, London, SW3, at 11am on October 24.

Alfred Doulton

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Alfred John Doulton, at 5.00pm on Monday, October 14, at St Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate, N6. For further information, please contact Highgate School (0181 340 1524).

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Girolamo Savonarola, preacher and martyr, Ferrara, Italy, 1452; John Mackdonald, inventor of the road surface of that name, Ayr, 1756; Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland 1806-10, Ajaccio, Corsica, 1778; H.G. Wells, novelist, Bromley, Kent, 1866; Gustave Holst, composer, Cheltenham, 1874; Sir Allen Lane, publisher, founder of Penguin Books (1939), Bristol, 1902.

DEATHS: Virgil, Roman poet, Brundisium (Brindisi), 19 BC; Sir Walter Scott, novelist and poet, Abbotsford, Borders, 1832; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Frankfurt, 1860; Sir Montague Burton, multiple tailor, Leeds, 1952.

The first recorded western film, the 21-minute *Air Cylon*, opened in America, 1903.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Anne of Cleves, fourth wife of King Henry VIII, Cleves, Germany, 1533; Michael Faraday, chemist, London, 1791; Duane Christabel Pankhurst, suffragette, Manchester, 1880; Erich von Stroheim, actor and film director, Vienna, 1885.

DEATHS: Johann Agricola, Lutheran reformer, Berlin, 1566; John Biddle, Unitarian, London, 1662; Frederick Soddy, chemist, Nobel laureate 1921, Brighton, 1956; Oliver St John Gogarty, surgeon and writer, New York, 1957; Irving Berlin, song writer, Manhattan, 1989.

Sir Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister to occupy 10 Downing Street, 1755.

Commercial television began in Britain: the first advertisement was for Gibbs SR toothpaste, 1955.

Service dinners

HMS Victory
Rear-Admiral Jan Spelstra, RNJL, was the principal guest at a dinner held last night aboard HMS Victory in Portsmouth to mark his retirement as Chief of Allied Staffs to the Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic area.

Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic, Vice-Admiral C. van Duynhoven, RNJL, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic, Rear-Admiral J. F. Perrowe, Commander Submarine Eastern Atlantic, and Air Vice-Marshal C. R. Spink, Commander Air Forces Eastern Atlantic, were among the guests.

HMS Collingwood
Mrs John Chadwick was the guest of honour at a ladies dinner held last night in the wardroom of HMS Collingwood, Commander J. Blackett presided.

Regional of Fusiliers
Serving and retired officers of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers held their annual dinner last night at the Naval and Military Club, Brigadier D.A.K. Biggart, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

4th and 5th Battalions Dorset
General Sir John Wilsey attended the annual dinner of Officers of the

4th and 5th Battalions Dorset Regiment (1939-1945) held last night at the TA Centre, Dorchester. Colonel Philip Roper presided.

Dinners
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a dinner of the Dinners' Company held last night at the Mansion House.

Lord Mayor, Mr David Rutherford and Mr Christopher Mitchell also spoke. The Masters of the Brewers and Leathersellers' Companies and their ladies were among the guests.

Baroness Falkender, Baroness Young, Chairman of the Independent Schools Joint Council, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night at the House of Lords, by courtesy of Baroness Falkender, to mark the jubilee of the Association of Representatives of Old Pupils Societies.

Dr Arthur Heurden, general secretary of the council, and Mr M.E.C. O'Brien, President of the Association of Old Pupils Societies, were among those present.



Judy Boyd, the sculptor, with a model of her tribute to the horse, which she hopes will fill an empty plinth opposite Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. Her idea for an 11-horse sculpture is accepted, Ms Boyd, of Devizes, Wiltshire, will spend three years making the twice-life-size bronze horses at an estimated cost of £1 million.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Mr Ian Albery, impresario, 60; Lord Barnard, 73; the Hon Mrs Rhiannon Chapman, former director, Industrial Society, 50; Mr Leonard Cohen, singer, poet and composer, 62; Mrs Shirley Connor, writer, 64; Mr William Dacombe, banker, 62; Miss Mary Fetherston-Dike, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 78; General Sir John Gibson, 79; Mr Larry Hagman, actor, 65; Professor J.M. Ham, electrical engineer, 76; Mr John Hodgkinson, Chief Constable of Hampshire, 52; Sir Colin Inray, diplomat, 63; Lord Ironside, 72; Professor Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones, Emeritus Professor of Greek, Oxford University, 74; Sir Liam MacGregor, former chairman, National Coal Board, 84; Sir Peter Matthews, company director, 74; Mr Simon May, broadcaster, 38; Mr Anthony Millard, Headmaster, Giggleswick School, 48;

Mr Bill Murray, actor, 46; Miss Jean Robertson, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 67; Sir John A. Smith, former deputy commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 58; Sir Brian Urwin, president and chairman of the board, European Investment Bank, 61; Professor Bernard Williams, philosopher, 67; Mr Jimmy Young, broadcaster, 73; Mr Tommy Wood, poet, 73; Mr John Caird, theatre director and writer, 48; Sir George Cadogan, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania, 84; Miss Maria Charles, actress, 67; Dr David Drewry, director, Science and Technology, Natural Environment Research Council, 49; Dr Liam Fox, MP, 35; Mr William Franklyn, actor, 70; Miss Gina Fradini, fashion designer, 65; Mr Colin Graham, opera director, 65; the Earl of Guilford, 65; Sir James Henry, former chairman, Foreign

Compensation Commission, 85; Professor Sir Frederick Holliday, chairman, Northumbrian Water Group, 61; Mr Graham Jones, Headmaster, Repton School, 52; Miss Deborah Lavin, Principal, the new college, Durham University, and president of the Howlands Trust, 57; Mr Mark Loveday, senior partner, Cazenove, 53; Professor Norbert Lynton, art historian, 69; Sir Charles Mander, company chairman, 76; Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, Slough Estates, 50; Lord Moran, 72; Captain Mark Phillips, equestrian trainer, 48; Mrs Mary Revely, racehorse trainer, 50; Lord Saye and See, 76; Mr John Tomlinson, opera bass, 50; Mr Alan Waterworth, Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, 65; Mrs Fay Weldon, writer, 65; Sir John Wickson, former president, Law Society, 59; Lord Younger of Prestwick, KT, 65.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Nigel Abbott, Rector, Much Hadham, and Chairman of the Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility (St Albans) to be also an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, same diocese.

The Rev Harold Aldridge, Vicar, Burton and Sharnock: now also Rural Dean of Wirral South (Cheshire).

The Rev Ian Arthur, Rector, Pottow w Sutton and Cockayne Hailey: to be Priest-in-Charge, Sharnbrook and Knotting w Souldrop (St Albans).

The Right Rev Edwin Barnes, Bishop of Richmond and Provincial Episcopal Visitor to the Diocese of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban (St Albans).

Canon Bernice Broggio, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting: to be also Rural Dean of Tooting (Southwark).

Church services tomorrow

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 11.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 12.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 1.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 2.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 3.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 4.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 5.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 6.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 7.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 8.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 9.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 10.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 11.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 12.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 1.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 2.15 Eucharist, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Jubilate in G; 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NEWS

Runaway bishop scandal deepens

THE scandal of Roderick Wright, the runaway bishop, deepened last night as church leaders condemned his betrayal and demanded that he come forward and confess. Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of Scotland's Roman Catholics, said that he felt doubly abandoned by the disclosure that Mr Wright had a 15-year-old son by another woman. Page 1

Stage folk deplore 'racist' luvvie

Trevor Nunn, the director, has declared war on the word "luvvie", saying that it is as appalling and abhorrent as any racist word. "It's a word that says you are hysterical, trivial, under-educated, self-indulgent, absolutely regardless of your background, education, lifestyle or manner." Page 1

Beef ban 'longterm'

The European ban on the export of British beef will not be lifted for the foreseeable future, Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, said yesterday. Page 2

'I still love bishop'

The woman who kept a 15-year secret that a Roman Catholic bishop was the father of her son said she still loved him. Page 3

Toxic shock death

A woman who had her breasts enlarged died 14 years later of toxic shock syndrome after surgery to correct the implants. Page 5

School heads quit

The head and deputy head of a London inner-city school have resigned after a campaign of abuse and lies from parents. Page 7

Football suicide

The chairman of Macclesfield Town Football Club has killed himself after guiding the team through its finest era. Page 9

Koala vasectomy plan 'doomed to fail'

Australian wildlife experts yesterday condemned government plans to give vasectomies and hormone implants to the country's expanding koala population, saying that the project was doomed to failure because of the promiscuity of the creatures. Page 17

Goose control

A fresh blitz on the Canada goose is expected after research showing they can be controlled by spraying paraffin on to eggs. Page 10

Papal primacy plea

An Anglican vicar about to be consecrated as a bishop has called for the Pope to be given primacy over the Archbishop of Canterbury and the monarch. Page 11

War crimes fear

The Hague war crimes tribunal may be fatally undermined unless the West takes swift steps to arrest Bosnian Serb suspects. Page 15

In deep trouble

North Korean infiltrators from a stranded submarine were last night trapped in disused mine-shafts. Page 16

Dole plays dirty

Bob Dole yesterday launched his most personal attack yet on President Clinton. Page 17

NATURE NOTES

Redwoodpecker (*Europa sceptica*)

Highly aggressive towards the emu, its call is a repetitive "UK-UK-UK-UK". Feeds off assorted nuts.

Distribution



OPINION

The World to Rome: through his relentless willingness to travel, John Paul II has accentuated the presence of the new church membership, but the influence of that membership will have to be addressed by his successor. Page 23

LETTERS

Maxwell case and trials of fraud: volunteering in a gap year: conscious machines: perils of horse power. Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: watching Mr Blair and Mr Major perform this week, I dread the forthcoming debate, but long for conversation. They are ill-cast as opponents. Page 22

OBITUARIES

General Ernesto Geisel, President of Brazil: Graham Law, architect: Geoffrey Strickland, scholar of Stendhal. Page 25

BUSINESS

Lloyds TSB: the bank is to buy out the minority shareholding in Lloyds Abbey Life. Page 27

Boots: the chemist has acquired Laboratoires Lutsia, a French skincare specialist, for FF920 million. Page 27

Chrysalis: Sir David Puttnam is to resign from the media group's board amid boardroom rows. Page 27

Markets: the FTSE 100 fell 10.2 to 3964.1. The sterling index rose to 86.1 from 85.9 after the pound rose 40 cents to \$1.5550 and 76 pence to DM2.3557. Page 30

SPORT

Golf: Europe fought back on the first day of the Solheim Cup to finish 5-3 down against the US. Page 52

Cricket: Leicestershire secured maximum bonus points against Middlesex to close in on the county championship. Page 51

Football: Queens Park Rangers has appointed Bruce Rioch assistant manager to Stewart Houston. Page 52

CAR 96

The model that made Rolls-Royce is being restored to original condition. Page 31

PERIS OF FAME

"You know the story about the dark side of fame," Richard Morrison writes. "Temptations, excesses, tantrums, addictions. Just an average morning in the Vatican, really." Page 19

Butterfly grounded: "Where do you start with a disaster on the scale of Opera North's Butterfly?" Rodney Milnes. Page 19

Chip off old block: Michael Cooney, son of farceur supreme Ray, is bringing his own comedy into the West End. Page 21

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

True grit: Chris Eccleston on his role as Jude Page 10
Strange, but true: two science-fiction writers get a call to arms. Page 27

WEEKEND

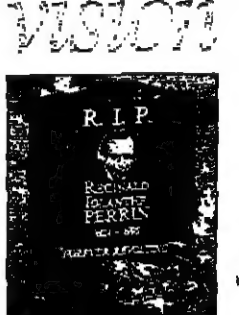
Second homes: buying country cottages Pages 1, 2



Books: Stephen Fry, Nigel Lawson, and Colin Dexter. Pages 12, 13
Going out: pages 14, 15

10 15

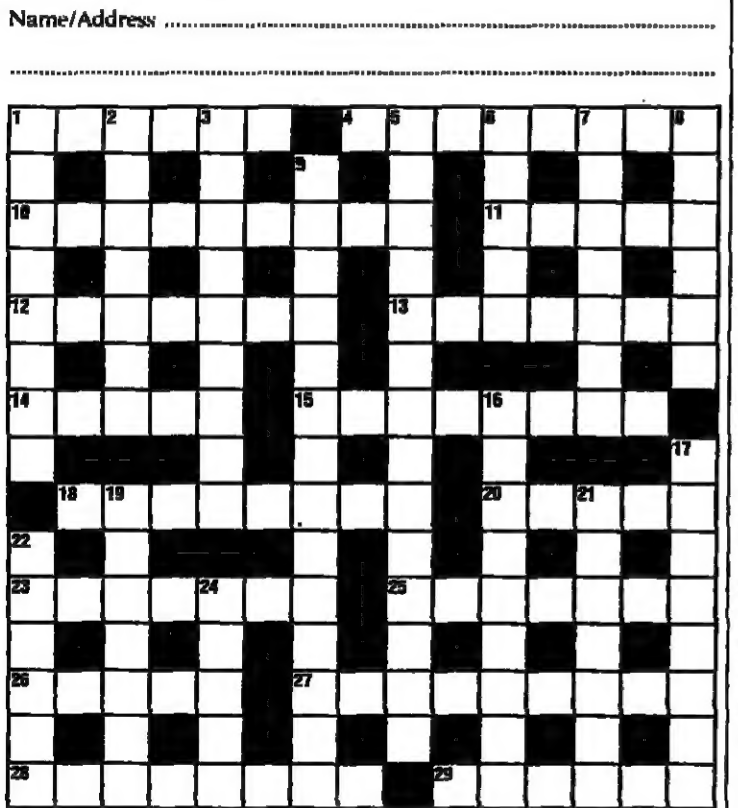
All Harb: Matthew Harb, rising ballet star, talks to 1015. Page 6
Win: in-line skates. Page 3



Tomorrow: The Legacy of Reginald Perrin, comedy series. BBC1 8.30pm
Friday: Rory Bremner... Who Else? Ch4, 10.30pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,279

ABERLOUR
A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 480, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



- ACROSS**
- Find me book in modest cover (4,2).
 - First couple of planes caught by King Kong in New York (3,5).
 - Epicure takes aim in European city ahead of time (3,6).
 - Religious leader whose staff worked wonders (5).
 - Firm agreement (7).
 - Race of early ship-builders (3,4).
 - Demoralise a would-be peace-maker (5).
 - Military activity - duty's to guard monarch (8).
 - With oils, a man contrived to show this beauty (4,4).
 - Finish off cosmetic treatment in part of car (5).
 - Bobby promises to pay in full (7).
 - Girl getting involved with men is a troublemaker (7).
 - Drink caught up with the old man (5).
 - Opposing legal authority in battle (9).
 - Hum, being without skills in unaccompanied singing (4-4).
 - Steam yacht goes round ocean, returning in fleet (6).
- DOWN**
- Copper one degree in error - he does his best (3,5).
 - There's nothing under this short garment, mother (7).
 - Metal ship (9).
 - Interested by pub profits, too (4,3,7).
 - A small part of journey with expedition (5).
 - Amended page with phrase, possibly (7).
 - Oscar nomination for important dramatic role (6).
 - Visionary projects found the French over the border? (7,2,5).
 - Compare edges of iron coin found in a bit of China? (6-3).
 - Work done by Lewis, always offering key support (8).
 - Performing daily, in theory at any rate (2,5).
 - Ultimately entering correct way of life (7).
 - In space, circling over polar region (3-3).
 - Authorises work - lady is ignoring the odds (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,273

ONCE OVER THE
A A E ONE HILL
T R O N S G E
G O L D M O N S T E R
A N E N O A A A
A T T E S T C O N T R A C T
O S T E R S O
C R O W L A R S O U P P E R
O O H A L L
A D O R A B L E S H I N D Y
P O R T R A I T
P O A I O I M A M
A S S E S S O N D
D E H M A K E G O O D

Solution to Puzzle No 20,278

U N I O N I N G R U S
G U N G E N E G O I A T
R T E P I O M P
O B S E R V A N T R O P E S
O A R I O
M U N I C I P A L I T Y
A N I O U S
S O V I E T S C O T S
L I I I
E M B E R S C R E W B A I L
O E U E N I V
P O S T E R I T Y D R I V E
O P T O T O R
D E M E S N E U N H A N D Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Sir Charles Gordon, Barnes, SW13; M Brown, Sheffield; M Pools, Dublin; A M Chapman, Cheltenham; M J Corlett, Thame, Oxon.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours in advance, call 0900 1500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon, Dorset & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Somerset	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Somerset	705
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Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Somerset	728
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Somerset	729
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Somerset	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	1
Area within M25	731
East of M25 (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26, A27, A28, A29, A30, A31, A32, A33, A34, A35, A36, A37, A38, A39, A40, A41, A42, A43, A44, A45, A46, A47, A48, A49, A50, A51, A52, A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A59, A60, A61, A62, A63, A64, A65, A66, A67, A68, A69, A70, A71, A72, A73, A74, A75, A76, A77, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84, A85, A86, A87, A88, A89, A90, A91, A92, A93, A94, A95, A96, A97, A98, A99, A100)	732
West of M25 (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26, A27, A28, A29, A30, A31, A32, A33, A34, A35, A36, A37, A38, A39, A40, A41, A42, A43, A44, A45, A46, A47, A48, A49, A50, A51, A52, A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A59, A60, A61, A62, A63, A64, A65, A66, A67, A68, A69, A70, A71, A72, A73, A74, A75, A76, A77, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84, A85, A86, A87, A88, A89, A90, A91, A92, A93, A94, A95, A96, A97, A98, A99, A100)	733
National motorways & roadworks	734
West Country	735
Wales	736
Midlands	737
East Anglia	738
North-west England	739
North-east England	740
Scotland	741
Northern Ireland	742
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.45 am
Moon sets: 7.01 pm
Moon rises: 3.30 pm

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.47 am
Moon sets: 6.59 pm
Moon rises: 4.15 pm

Full moon September 27
London 7.01 pm to 6.47 am
Bristol 7.10 pm to 6.57 am
Edinburgh 7.14 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester 7.17 pm to 6.57 am
Perthshire 7.22 pm to 6.57 am

HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	6.58	6.0
Aberdeen	7.13	3.6
Abermouth	0.00	10.6
Belfast	4.40	3.1
Cardiff	12.25	5.6
Devonport	11.17	4.5
Dover	4.10	5.6
Dublin (at low)	5.20	3.5
Falmouth	10.34	4.3
Glasgow	5.32	3.0
Harwich	4.47	5.0
Holyhead	3.44	4.6
Null (Albion) Orkney	11.53	6.1
Portsmouth	11.41	2.4
Swansea	8.14	8.6
Liverpool	4.36	7.7
Lowestoft	2.36	2.2
Southampton	5.10	4.1
Wexford	11.52	5.5
Yarmouth	11.46	5.0
Oban	10.17	4.5
Portsmouth	11.41	2.4
Southampton	5.10	4.1
Wexford	11.52	5.5
Yarmouth	11.46	5.0
Oban	10.17	4.5
Portsmouth	11.41	2.4
Southampton	5.10	4.1
Wexford	11.52	5.5
Yarmouth	11.46	5.0
Oban	10.17	4.5
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